

APRIL 2023 Issue



SPRING QUOTES

We officially welcomed in spring on March 20th, 2023. Yes!

“In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.”

-Mark Twain

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, “Let’s party!”

-Robin Williams

“A flower blossoms for its own joy.”

-Oscar Wilde

“Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat.”

-Laura Ingalls Wilder

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FROM THE TOP

Dear LSSU Academies,

We are now in the last quarter of the 2022-23 academic year. The calendar states that it is “spring” but Mother Nature (at least in the U.P.) has decided to give us a bit more of winter. As I type this, it is snowing! The entire CSO office looks forward to warmer weather which I’m sure is right around the corner.

I wanted to remind you that National Charter Schools Week will be celebrated the week of May 8th through the 12th. LSSU CSO will host daily contests for some great prizes. I encourage you all to participate. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for further details. Additionally, we may organize transportation to attend Charter Day at the Capital for our LSSU academies. More to come on this.

<https://www.facebook.com/LSSUCharters>

Our CSO office has been busy with reauthorizations, planning professional development opportunities for the 2023-24 academic year, creating budgets, and setting office and personal professional goals. We look forward to seeing our charter school students on campus this summer taking advantage of summer camp opportunities.

As always, if we can be of service to you, don’t hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski

Executive Director

Mayor Nicole Brown

To commemorate Black History and Women's History, our very own newly elected Mayor of Ypsilanti, Nicole Brown, visited the Academy!

Mayor Brown shared insights on her role as mayor, graciously participated in a Q&A with students, and voted on the Door Decoration contest. [WSC Academy](#) is the only high school

to invite Mayor Brown since winning the election. Thank you, Mayor Brown.



Submitted by Candice Spencer

Compliance Corner

Board Training Note- The April 19th training, "Governing Beyond the School Year" at 6 p.m. will be the last board training for the 2022-23 academic year. Look for additional board professional development resources on our website at <https://www.lssu.edu/charter-schools/professional-development/>

Board Members- CSO is asking for any suggested PD topics for the future. Please submit the topics to the CSO or your field representative.

Annual Meetings- Reminder that it is best practice to schedule annual board meetings in May or June. Doing so allows Epicenter tasks and other items to be scheduled based on your board commitments and coordinates with board term expirations of June 30.

PLEASE NOTE- Applications for board member reappointments or new appointments are due by Friday, April 7th, 2023. Please be sure to have all documentation submitted to your field representative so that we can process and make the LSSU board agenda deadline. The only LSSU Board of Trustees meeting prior to term expirations will be on May 12th, 2023.

Reminder- New and Expanding MDE forms due by Friday, April 14th, 2023 to the CSO. Remember, if not expanding, you need to return the form with the NOT expanding checked.

Guest Reader at Grand Traverse Academy

Lynn Methner, LSSU CSO Field Representative, was grinning from ear to ear as she was a guest reader at Grand Traverse Academy on March 16, 2023. If you know Lynn, you know that March is her favorite month of the school year because it is National Reading Month. Lynn was able to read stories in multiple classrooms. Thank you to Grand Traverse Academy for the opportunity. Many of us in the CSO are former teachers and administrators. It does our hearts good to connect with students.



FINANCE CORNER

April 28
Budget Revision Resolution
3rd Quarter

May 15
Quarterly Financial Statement
3rd Quarter

June 30
Adopted Budget Resolution
2023-24

June 30
Public Hearing Notice
2023-24

June 30
Budget timeline 2023-24

June 30
Final Revised Budget Resolution
2022-23



"A budget is more than just a series of numbers on a page; it is an embodiment of our values."

Barack Obama

2023-24
Testing Windows

FALL
September 12-October 6

WINTER
January 8-February 9

SPRING
April 24-June 7

NWEA Testing Windows Released

You will find the LSSU mandated testing windows for the 2023-24 academic year listed to the left. Remember, you must assess your second through eighth graders using NWEA's MAP three times per year according to these authorizer determined testing windows. If you require a testing window modification, please make your request to Julie Buchholtz at jhopper@lssu.edu. Modifications must be approved by Julie with every attempt made to keep testing within these windows. Do not certify in Epicenter that testing is complete until it actually is since this serves as a signal to pull needed files. This will make my life much easier. :) I will provide PA48 Reports in June as well as your annual academy report in Fall 2023.

Thank you.

Julie Buchholtz, Academic Assessment Specialist

**5 Facts About Reading
That Will Blow Your
Mind**

1. Reading often makes you kinder: Studies show that people who read more fiction books are more likely to be kinder to others than people who don't.

2. Reading fast helps your eyes: Reading a book fast will help strengthen your vision.

3. It helps reduce stress: A good book can be a great stress reliever if you allow yourself to get lost in a book.

4. It improves vocabulary: Reading a good book will help to improve your vocabulary as you come across new words.

5. Your creativity is increased: Consistent reading stimulates your brain resulting in increased creativity.

Literacy Night at Momentum Academy

by Katie Alexander, Academy Leader

On March 14th, coinciding with Pi Day, Momentum Academy held their 5th annual Literacy Night on Pi Day (March 14). This is a school wide, family fun event! Students were able to enjoy many different book genres, adopt a stuffed reading buddy, make a delicious trail mix snack and sign up for a new library card with Pontiac Library.



“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”

-Joseph Addison-



NATIONAL READING MONTH

While we might take reading for granted it has a long history and there was a time when few people knew how to read. The first written communication did not happen until 3500 B.C., and the first books did not appear until around 23 B.C. in Rome. Before the printing press was developed in the 15 th century, books were quite expensive and rare but as printed books became more readily available, literacy rates began to rise. In 1892, the first book covers appeared and in the 19 th century, publishers started printing books with hardbacks.

National Reading Month was established in 1994 to honor Dr. Seuss' birthday and promote reading. Dr. Seuss is the beloved writer and illustrator of children's books such as "The Cat in the Hat." While we may be able to take reading for granted, people often don't read enough and we are losing our reading culture as a society. Reading is one of the best habits to develop since it strengthens mental muscles, helps improve comprehension and analytical abilities, and increase imagination and boosts memory.

Submitted by Lynn Methner

National Reading Month Timeline	
The First Book- 14th Century	The book titled, "The Epic Gilgamesh" is the first book to ever be written.
The First Book Club- 1634	Anne Hutchinson forms a women's book club to discuss weekly sermons.
The First Book Cover- 1832	The first book covers appear and during this time, books with book covers cost a penny in America and Britain.
National Reading Month- 1994	National Reading Month is celebrated for the first time in March.



BROOKE'S CORNER

By Brooke Maciag, School Support Specialist

It's that time of year again, where we can start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Spring break marks the beginning of the final push to the end of the school year. This was always the craziest time of year for me as a teacher and a school leader. End of year testing, class trips, concerts & programs. High schools deal with graduation activities, honors banquettes, multiple sports seasons crammed into 6 weeks of time (shortened because we had to snowblow the track to clear it off most years) all with constantly changing schedules based on the weather. Top the season off with the general squirrely-ness of students in full-blown spring fever, and I sincerely hope you recharged your batteries over spring break. I just wanted to take a minute and cheer those of you doing this holy work on. **YOU CAN DO THIS!** The end is near and I know you can make it! I stumbled upon this online article; [5 Simple Tips to Cure Spring Fever](#) by Rebecca Davies and thought it had easy to implement and common sense things to help you make it to the last day successfully. Feel free to read the whole article and you can find many others out there too. Find what works for you and your students, and have a great rest of the school year.

1. Re-evaluate how you use your space.
2. Build extra breaks into your lesson plans.
3. Repeat, repeat, repeat.
4. Don't be afraid to change things up.
5. Use student helpers to keep things on track.

James Vukelich

Often times, once we get home at the end of a long day, all we want to do is put on a pair of sweat-pants and relax. On February 1, 2023, I'm glad that I mustered up the energy to head back out into the world and attend James Vukelich's presentation on the campus of LSSU. This event was brought to campus in collaboration with the Bay Mills Indian Community, Gnoozhekaaning Museum, Bay Mills Community College, and Lake Superior State University. It was a packed house.

Mr. Vukelich Kaagegaabaw, is a descendent of Turtle Mountain, an international speaker, author, and creator of the "Ojibwe Word of the Day" on YouTube. He spoke on the Seven Grandfather Teachings of love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility, truth, and wisdom. Vukelich highlighted the Seventh Generation Principle, each decision we make, we should consider the next seven generations and the impact our decision will have on each generation.

You can access Vukelich's presentation here.

<https://lakerblogs.lssu.edu/lakercast/podcast/james-vukelich-the-seven-grandfather-teachings/>

You can access the Ojibwe word of the day here.

<https://www.youtube.com/@kizhenaabeg>



James Vukelich

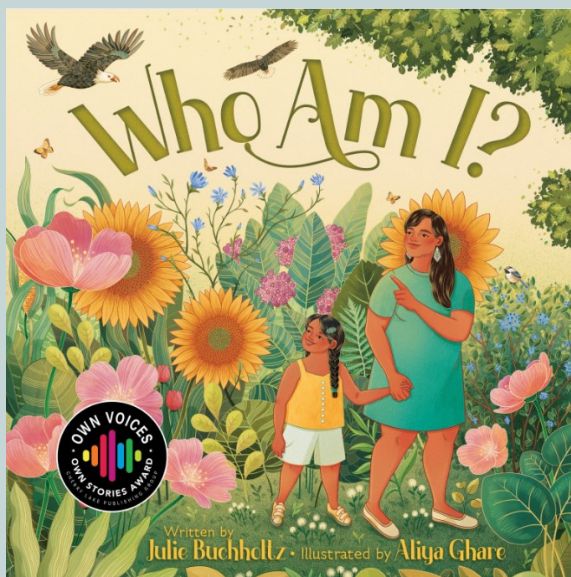


Many of us have a list of accomplishments or goals we hope to achieve in our lifetime. I've always dreamed of writing and publishing a children's book. The stars aligned just right and my dream is now becoming a reality.

On July 29, 2021, my hands began to shake as I read an email that I had received from the editor of Sleeping Bear Press based out of Ann Arbor. It began the usual way, "Thank you for your submission...we received many quality submissions....we are thrilled to let you know that your submission has been selected as the grand prize winner." Wait, what? It took me a minute to grasp her words. Flash forward to today where I'm on the cusp of having my book released. "Who Am I?" tells the story of a little brown skinned girl who asks her big brown mama who she is. Her mama explains how she is connected to the wind, the rain, and the stars. The little girl realizes that she is not so little after all. "Who Am I?" will be released on July 15th, 2023. It is available through

Amazon, Sleeping Bear Press., and our local book store. Pinch me, I must be dreaming. :)

By Julie Buchholtz



https://www.amazon.com/Who-Am-Own-Voices-Stories/dp/1534111816/ref=sr_1_1?crid=36MHGKQV27LA4&keywords=who+am+i+julie+buchholtz&qid=1678906660&srefix=who+am+i+julie+buchholtz%2Caps%2C97&sr=8-1

<https://islandbooksandcrafts.com/item/S1SjsBJkMZIHPw2fRNS1oQ>

www.juliebuchholtz.com

Academy Spotlights



Grandma's Place At North Central Academy

Submitted by Jill Kettlewell, NCA Leader

Action Over Words, Service Over Self is the motto at North Central Academy. Crystal Williams, “a.k.a. Grandma”, has taken the NCA motto to a whole new level. Mrs.

Williams has always had a soft spot for children of all ages. She has four children who have attended NCA in the past and currently has six grandchildren who attend the school. Mrs. Williams approached Principal Jill Kettlewell last year with an idea to create a “store” where students could shop, but all the goods were free. North Central Academy has a 86% free and reduced lunch rate leaving many students in need of some basic items like food, toiletries and clothing. Mrs. Williams was given the green light by Ms. Kettlewell and a classroom was converted into Grandma’s Place, which opened in March of 2022. Students can visit Grandma’s Place during their lunch period and shop for items such as shampoo, clothing, shoes, blankets or non-perishable food items. These items and more are free for NCA students and their families. “I felt a need to help families who can’t always provide for their children the way they want to. Some of the student’s wants and needs are heartbreaking and so simple to fulfill,” said Williams. “Some need laundry detergent and some just need a hug and a pair of socks or a pencil. It was a no-brainer for me.” The word about Grandma’s Place has spread throughout the community, opening the door for donations and support. While Mrs. Williams does a great job seeking out support from local businesses such as Wal-mart, Merchandise Outlet, and the Dollar Tree, she always welcomes donations from the community as well. Thanks to a grant from The Home Depot that provided a shed, Grandma’s Place has dedicated storage for any donations that are brought in. Principal Jill Kettlewell said, “Grandma’s Place has been a game-changer for our students. They feel loved and cared for and, in turn, feel better about their capacity to learn and be safe at school. Ms. Williams does a great job of getting the word out and works magic to get donations.” North Central Academy is a tuition free public charter school that places an emphasis on individualizing instruction as well as incorporating the arts and movement into education. Our K-12 school has a staff that creates positive relationships with students in order to impact the whole child. NCA partners with parents and the community to build a culture of respect.



Crystal Williams, a.k.a. “Grandma”



Bay City Academy

Submitted by Stephen Richard, Assistant Principal

Bay City Academy is not your standard K-12 school; we are acutely aware that learning does not only happen inside the classroom. We work hard to provide a comprehensive education, and we are proud to provide students with a variety of valuable activities that they might not otherwise get to do.

First and foremost, these activities help students develop critical life skills. For example, participating in team sports can teach children about teamwork, leadership, and communication. Joining a club or organization can help students learn how to collaborate with others and manage their time efficiently. And volunteering in the community provides an opportunity for students to develop empathy and compassion for others. Another advantage of outside the classroom activities is that they provide students with unique learning experiences that they might not get inside the classroom. For example, field trips can expose students to new environments and cultures, and allow them to see firsthand how concepts they've learned in class apply in the real world. Finally, outside the classroom activities can provide students with opportunities for personal growth and self-discovery. For example, participating in a theatrical production can help students develop confidence and public speaking skills.

Here is a list of what BCA has offered during the 2022-23 school year alone: Sports: elementary through high school cross country, junior high through highschool boys and girls basketball, volleyball, football, baseball/softball, poms and high school bowling. Clubs/Activities: chess, yoga, Tae Kwon Do, reading club, game club, talent show, Camp Read S'more, movie nights, duck races, Constitution Day activities, a farm animal petting zoo outside BCA, exotic animal zoo in the "Action over words. Service over self." BCA gym, family fiesta night, cheer camp, Autumn festival, high school dances, cooking with Christmas, Grandfriends Day, Someone Special dance (K-6th grade), poetry slam (6th-12th grade). Theater: High School One Acts, Matilda Jr. Musical, Christmas concert, Frozen the Musical, High School Thespians Festival, Love Fest, and the Spring Concert. Field Trips: Great Lakes Loons baseball game, Mackinac Island, Henry Ford Museum, Wilderness Trails Zoo, Camp Neyati, Gym Jesters, Chippewa Nature Center, Musico, Midland Center for the Arts, Delta Planetarium, 10th grade LSSU visit, River of Time, Dow Gardens, and Johnson's Pumpkin Farm.

In conclusion, Bay City Academy takes every advantage we can to help our students succeed. We help students develop critical life skills, offer unique learning experiences, and foster personal growth and self-discovery. For example, by encouraging and supporting these activities, BCA students Arnell Somlar and Devin Schular both made first team all conference in basketball, with Arnell being the leading Freshman scorer in Bay County. Bay City Academy helps students become well-rounded individuals who are better prepared for the challenges of the future.

Bay City Academy Motto
"Action over words. Service over self."



Innocademy Zeeland

Our School Participated in the Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital Art Show

We had several students participate from 3rd through 8th grade and had their artwork displayed. We had a total of four students from our school receive awards and will have their piece matted and framed and on display in the hospital for the next year! We are SO very proud of all of our student artists!

Submitted by Jessenia Martinez, Academy Leader



One of our students was awarded “Best of Show” out of 11 schools 3rd thru 8th grade!



Our guest speaker speaks to our students about how they each have a unique story to tell

Film Festival Experience at our School by Saugatuck Arts Council

The films are great and engaging and offer short glimpses of the world outside our walls! A video was shown and explained to both middle school and elementary students at our first assembly this month of the year. For the last 20 years, the Saugatuck Center for the Arts has brought together students from across West Michigan to dig into other cultures, traditions, stories, and spirits. These unique learning experiences are possible through the power of film.

<https://sc4a.org/event/art-out-loud/childrens-film-festival/>



Innocademy Allegan

The World is Our Classroom

Submitted by Shelly Silva, Campus Nature Teacher

Five years ago Innocademy Allegan Campus opened the door to a new way of learning. In partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center, a local nature center, we began to explore what nature based could look like for our school. It was an initiative which would be met with some excitement, and a bit of skepticism. Some of us on the teaching staff, including myself, thought there was no way taking kids outdoors to learn would work. There was too much to do in here. Things like closing achievement gaps and improving test scores. With some trepidation we dipped our toes into the big world of outdoor learning.

Over the past few years our teachers have been mentored by two ambassadors from the ODC, expanding our idea of what a classroom can look like. These days a classroom at IAC can look like a meadow where second graders observe pollinators at work, or a beach where Middle School students observe the effects of erosion and make an engineering design which could help solve the problem. Every other week each class at Innocademy has a planned field experience to the Outdoor Discovery Center or a local destination such as Saugatuck Dunes State park. In addition, nature learning is continued at school through a twice weekly Nature Study class.

Outdoor education is our way of life now. It's messy sometimes, but staff and students are reaping the benefits of improved engagement, better social-emotional health, and yes that achievement gap is closing too. Ms. Mead, the second grade teacher says, "My students are never more engaged than when we are doing our Nature learning. It doesn't matter what we're teaching, the kids love it." As Lily, a sixth grader shows me her mud covered hands after collecting a soil sample she says, "Isn't it fun to get your hands dirty? Can we have more time outside?" To which I reply, "Of course we can". We won't be closing our doors to outdoor learning anytime soon. After all, we have so much to do out here.

<https://outdoordiscovery.org/>



The Outdoor Discovery Center located in Holland, Michigan is a 160 acre nature preserve that is free and open to the public. In 1999, the Wildlife Unlimited of Allegan and Ottawa Counties, Inc. and the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, partnered to create this facility for the community serving both students and the public.

**Learn how to increase engagement, attendance, &
overall student success through gaming!
A No-Cost ESPORTS Experiential Event at your School.
DO NOT MISS THIS AMAZING OPPORTUNITY!**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeK26P2M2cYreL-2a3qqyyTMJxz14vImTZgelMroz6Q3Ep4g/viewform?usp=sf_link



We are thrilled to announce LSSU is partnering with C.A.R.E. in Schools and sponsoring a unique experience for your staff and students to learn about ESPORTS and all of the benefits competitive gaming provides to students. Participants will have a chance to play a few ESPORTS titles as well as ask questions about starting a club, team, or even how to integrate ESPORTS into the curriculum.

During your event, we will cover a range of topics, including the benefits of ESPORTS, how to get funding and support for your program, how to choose the right games and equipment, and how to create a positive and inclusive community. These personalized visits will take place at start of the 2023-2024 school year.

We understand that some of you might not know much or anything about ESPORTS or might feel that gaming does not belong in schools. If so don't worry, you're not alone! However, there are many important reasons to invest time in learning about ESPORTS.

ESPORTS is competitive video gaming and it has exploded in popularity in recent years. Schools across the country are starting to recognize its potential as a valuable activity. ESPORTS clubs provide a space for students to come together and compete while also fostering inclusion and reaching kids that have struggled with engagement.

Once registered, you will be contacted to schedule a half day session. Visits will take place starting in August of the 2023-2024 school year.

REGISTER HERE BY MAY 31, 2023.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeK26P2M2cYreL-2a3qqyyTMJxz14vImTZgelMroz6Q3Ep4g/viewform?usp=sf_link



Why Should You Sign Up?

Not every student wants to join band, drama club, or participate in traditional sports. ES-SPORTS is a relatively low cost opportunity that will benefit a diverse student group. Schools around the country are taking this opportunity seriously. Click this link to see just how seriously schools are already taking this new extracurricular opportunity.

<https://www.live5news.com/2023/03/14/dd2-create-esports-arenas-further-job-opportunities-students/>

- ESports is a billion dollar industry that provides a rich landscape of career pathways for students.
<https://www.sriexecutive.com/2023/02/13/esports-in-education-a-game-changer-for-the-global-talent-shortage/>
- According to the National Association of Collegiate ESports (NACE) , more than \$16 million in scholarships were offered to ESports players in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Click here to see new degree offerings related to ESports.
<https://www.live5news.com/2023/03/14/dd2-create-esports-arenas-further-job-opportunities-students/>
- 51% of students who engage in ESports have never been involved in any other extracurricular activity in their school.
- Student attendance and grades increase ESports players have 10% higher attendance rates and higher grades with G.P.A.'s 1.7 points higher than the average student. Confidence increases, especially for kids that have never been able to reap the benefits of team sports.
- It's free! We come to YOU. There is nothing to lose except the chance to provide an amazing opportunity to the kids you serve and to increase the chances of overall success and engagement.
- We know that starting an ESports club can seem daunting but with the right support it's easier than you think. We are excited to bring this opportunity to all of you.
<https://careinschools.org/our-team>



Madeline Black
Ed. S, Founder



Maggie Hatcher
C.A.R.E. Leader

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PHILOSOPHY

We believe in authorizing through the lens of an educator, realizing students are more than academic performance or financial incentives. True authorizing takes into account the whole child, whole academy, and whole community while recognizing the importance of increased performance and sustainability.

MISSION

To ensure quality oversight and support to our authorized charter academies resulting in students who are prepared for the next phase of life whether it be attending college, joining the military, or entering the work force.

VISION

We envision an educational system in Michigan that provides families with diverse educational opportunities that allow each child to flourish and find his/her place in the global community.

TOMATOEY PARMESAN BEANS

- 2 TBSP. UNSALTED BUTTER
- 1 GARLIC HEAD
- 1 -28 OUNCE CAN OF CHOPPED TOMATOES
- 1-15 OZ CAN CANNELLINI BEANS, DRAINED AND RINSED
- 1- 15 OZ CAN CHICKPEAS, DRAINED AND RINSED
- 1 1/2 CUPS CHICKEN BROTH
- PARMESAN CHEESE RIND AND SHAVED PARMESAN
- 2 HANDFULS OF SPINACH
- 1 BAY LEAF
- SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE



Submitted by
Julie Buchholtz

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IN A LARGE SAUCEPAN, MELT THE BUTTER OVER MEDIUM HEAT. CHOP THE TOP OFF OF THE HEAD OF GARLIC SO THAT ALL CLOVES ARE EXPOSED, DISCARD ANY PEELS ABOUT TO FALL OFF. (YOU WANT THE HEAD TO STAY TOGETHER) ADD THE GARLIC TO THE PAN, CUT SIDE DOWN AND COOK FOR 1-2 MINUTES UNTIL BROWNE D AROUND THE EDGES.
2. STIR IN THE TOMATOES, BEANS, AND STOCK, PARMESAN RIND, BAY LEAF, A COUPLE OF PINCHES OF SALT, AND A BUNCH OF BLACK PEPPER. BRING TO A BOIL, REDUCE TO A SIMMER, COVER AND COOK GARLIC UNTIL SMOOSHY- ABOUT 30 MINUTES.
3. STIR IN THE SPINACH A FEW MINUTES BEFORE SERVING. TOP WITH SHAVED PARMESAN.
4. SCOOP OUT THE GARLIC AND SPREAD SOME ON CRUSTY TOAST.