



Glen Lake COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Home
of the
Lakers

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Open to all after
school hours!

Laker Park and Playground Officially Open!

After years of envisioning, countless hours of planning and design, and a passion for building the best playground around, the Laker Park and Playground officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration!

Honored ribbon cutters shown above were fourth grader, **Nora Verschaeve**, and Kindergarten teacher, **Marni LaPaugh**. Both of them played vital roles in the design and fruition of this dream. The Laker Park and Playground is open to the entire community outside of school hours.



Everyone is invited to utilize this amazing space for family fun, meeting up with friends, and enjoying the beauty of our area.



Mark Mattson Retires

We would like to thank Mark Mattson for his service, dedication, and incredible care of our students.



Mark served as the Interim Superintendent at Glen Lake Community Schools since July 1. In addition, he served just over 18 years as an Athletic Director and 12 as an Assistant Principal, having served as the Athletic Director at Marquette Senior High School (2003-2009), Traverse City Central High School (2014-2018), and Glen Lake Community Schools (2009-2014 & 2018-2021), after teaching for the first six years of his career, one at Rhinelander (WI) High School (1997-1998) and five at Marquette Senior High School (1998-2003).

Across his Business Education and Physical Education teaching tenure, he coached football, basketball, baseball, and softball. He currently serves on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's (MHSAA) Representative Council, and has served for a number of years on the Michigan Interscholastic Administrators Association (MIAAA) Board of Directors.

Mattson was named the Upper Peninsula Athletic Director of the Year in 2006, the MIAAA Region 1 Athletic Director of the Year in 2008, the MIAAA Region 2 Athletic Director of the Year in 2018, and was the recipient of the MHSAA's Allen W. Bush Award in 2020.

He is a Yooper at heart, having graduated from L'Anse High School and Northern Michigan University, and he hopes to never lose his Yooper accent. If he could teach people one thing, it would be that they learn the proper pronunciations for sauna (SOW-na) and pasta (PASS-tee). He has an adorable pup, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Manny, who he loves spending as much time with as he can. He is also a big fan of baseball and loves the Detroit Tigers. He enjoys exercising, including playing men's fastpitch softball, mountain biking, and hiking, among many other fun outdoor activities, preferably in warm sunshine. He notes that a couple weeks of winter are tolerable. Mr. Mattson will be missed by all Lakers. Best of luck to him!



Jason Stowe Takes the Helm

My initial experience the past two months working part-time has been nothing but positive and it is obvious that Glen Lake is filled with great people. I was born and raised in Northport and, other than my college stint at Western Michigan University, I have lived most of my life in Leelanau County. I taught elementary school in Northport for six years, before moving to Leland where I taught elementary and middle school for eight years. I then spent the next two years serving as the Leland K-12 principal and the last ten years as the Leland Superintendent. I have been out of education for the past 22 months, but I am really excited to get back to work.

I have been married to my wife, Cathy, for 26 years and we have two children, Cameron (25) and Margie (21). We have been living part-time in Northern Michigan and Florida for the last year and a half and we are both very happy to be moving back to Leelanau County.

Thank you for the warm reception! I am happy to be joining the Laker Family full time in January.

Our Solar Array Helps!



Did you know... Since our school solar array was installed on October 8, 2019, we have saved 28,770 pounds of CO₂ emissions, which is equivalent to planting 217.39 trees (as of December 17, 2021).

You can check this information anytime by choosing the Solar Panel Dashboard on our website under Academics & Arts!



Mid-Year Additions to the Team!



We welcome Alicia Adams to 4th grade!

My name is **Alicia Adams** and I could not be more thrilled to be joining the Laker family and the 4th grade team! I have a Bachelor of Arts in Language Arts and Elementary Education from Grand Valley State University, and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Central Michigan University. I have been teaching for 12 years and have previously taught grades 1, 2, and 3. I love reading and books, I enjoy writing, and I am a big fan of all things coffee. My husband, Mark, and I have been married for twelve years and have three children: Sydney (10), Hudson (8) and Calvin (5). They have also joined the Laker family! My classrooms are always built upon relationships and creating a happy, positive, and safe culture for students. I am excited to take this opportunity to be a part of this amazing community. Go Lakers!



My name is **Jennifer Jackson** and I am a K-12 Laker Alumni! I have been married to my husband, Donald, for 14 years and we have 4 boys that all attend GL: Asher in Pre-K, Christian in 3rd, Skylar in 7th, and Jaden in 8th. I attended college in Georgia, where I received my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and my Master's degree in Reading. I spent nine years teaching elementary school while in Georgia. We moved to Texas in 2015 for my husband's career, and I was able to stay home to raise our boys, as well as join and help run the PTO for their school for five years. We were able to move back to this beautiful area where I grew up last August. I am excited to be back and to help make a difference in our community! Thank you for welcoming me aboard as a returning Laker!



We welcome Jennifer Jackson to 2nd grade and her family to Leelanau County!



The Laker Band Program is On a Roll!

Last year, the Laker Marching Band was created from scratch, marching with only 14 students and using track uniforms, since the old uniforms were from the 1970s and falling apart. The students played one piece at halftime and performed a short pre-game set. Those accomplishments for the band were outstanding.

This year, the Laker Marching Band took the field with over 33 members, brand new marching uniforms, and performed a full pre-game and halftime set.

The entire band program has since doubled and is continuing to grow. When Mr. George started, there was just a sixth, seventh, and high school band. This year, we have a separate sixth, separate seventh, and eighth through high school band. Next year, we welcome one more additional band class for a full middle school band schedule, and a separate high school band.

The students are ecstatic about the accomplishments they have achieved and look forward to their bright futures as Laker band members.

Science Learning Applied in Real Life!

In preparation for the partial lunar eclipse that occurred in November, third grade students created models of a lunar eclipse. They presented these to their classmates and shared how their model worked. After this preparation and study, it was super exciting to hear their firsthand encounters about the real-life eclipse after it happened!

In addition, they have also been exploring the impact humans make on our environment and how this can be positive or negative. To see this firsthand, they participated in a community service project and collected garbage from our school grounds including the playground and trail system. They gathered approximately one and a half 50-gallon bags (see below). These third graders truly showed gratitude by helping keep our school grounds clean and taking pride in this place we call home.

Not only do Lakers learn about scientific concepts from books and other sources, they apply the concepts in their lives and find science meaningful and fun!



In fourth grade science class, they are talking about energy. Pictured at left, the students are setting up a natural roller coaster, with a goal to drop a ball on top of the hill by the school and have it weave and roll its way into a bucket at the bottom in the parking lot. This is not an easy task! It takes a lot of planning and effort.

The fifth graders, pictured below, used movement to learn the location and scale of planets in our Solar System. After learning about the interaction between the sun, Earth, and moon, they ventured into space and learned all about what makes these planets unique.



High School Physics students (below) designed paper structures, mouse trap cars, and egg carriers, with the goal to incorporate/apply both physics (motion, freefalling, forces) and engineering practices into the projects.



Curiosity, nature, and great kids— nothing could be better!

Our **Explorers'** students have been busy! They have made musical instruments out of nature, worked on shelters, enjoyed making maps to sit spots, studying trees, and climbing Mt. Laker. They have gotten lost with a compass and two dice: one that tells them how many steps to walk and the other telling them the cardinal direction. They have examined archeological digs looking for glacier evidence. Explorers have also enjoyed days of general walking and exploring, expanding their personal comfort zone being in nature.

Community & Connections



Student artists in our High School Drawing and Painting class painted miniature canvases with local scenes to help the Glen Arbor Women's club decorate their tree in downtown Glen Arbor.



Lakers enjoyed a delicious Turkey Day lunch. We appreciate all the people who work in our cafeteria, and feed our children with enthusiasm, care, and love.



On December 8, 9, 10, and 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditoria, seventeen students ranging from 4th grade to 12th grade, plus four students working on sound and lights, brought ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** to Glen Lake audiences.

Rehearsals began September 28, with the group rehearsing three days a week for 11 weeks. Everyone was relieved and excited to be able to have a live show!

For the past two productions, we did a movie that was written by the students, and a radio show.

This show was unique in the fact that we opened the play up to 4th and 5th graders. The older students said they enjoyed working with the younger students and helping to usher in the next group of thespians! It looks like we are on the right track at rebuilding our program after so many students graduated last year.



The Cast

- **Aiden Doher** - Leroy Herdman
- **Ava Houghton** - Gladys Herdman
- **Avery Petroskey** - Hobie, Doris, Juanita
- **Bella Romzek** - Mother
- **Dexter Martin** - Elmer Hopkins
- **Favour Kuncaitis** - Mrs. McCarthy, Shirley
- **Harley Davison** - Ralph Herdman/Fireman
- **Jamie Blondia** - Father
- **Luke Young** - Charlie
- **Mackenzie Gordon** - Alice Wendleken
- **Maddie Diehl** - Imogen Herdman
- **Maisy Carroll** - Ollie Herdman
- **Max Wassa** - Claude Herdman
- **Riley Zamora** - Young Beth
- **Sidney Martin** - Stage Manager/Ralph Herdman/Fireman (Sidney stepped into this role the day before the opening of the show)
- **Vivienne Roberts** - Maxine
- **Zinnia Dungjen** - Grown Up Beth



The Technology Support Crew

- **Connor McCaw**
- **Henry Sutherland**
- **Luke Selby**
- **Rowan Martin**

★ Parents' Night Out ★

After looking for a way to give back, the secretaries of Glen Lake, along with our school nurse, some paraprofessional volunteers, and elementary principal, hosted a Parents' Night Out. Our afternoon and evening were filled with 100 student attendees, fun, dinner, ice cream bar, dancing, and lots of smiles...from both students and parents at pick up.



Glen Lake Community Schools

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Board of Education
minutes are available
on the school website.

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Jason Stowe, Superintendent
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Jeremy Howe, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal

★ Congratulations to New NHS Members! ★



The Glen Lake National Honor Society (NHS) students strive for excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service. Our NHS Chapter places a high emphasis on serving others, both in school and in the community. Members have many opportunities to volunteer their time throughout the year in a variety of organized events. Some of these opportunities include: holding/helping at four blood drives each year, organizing a food drive, tutoring students, volunteering at Special Olympics, providing daycare for staff during professional development days, making holiday cards and ornaments for hospital patients and workers, and helping with Blessings in a Backpack. Each member donates 10 hours of volunteer time throughout the school year. Congratulations to the new members listed below!

NEW INDUCTEES

SENIORS: Fischer Alonzi, Gretel Foglesong

JUNIORS: Maddie Bradford, Gemma Lerchen, Camille Moss

SOPHOMORES: Tyler Bixby, Jamie Blondia, Tyler Brown, Dylan Cundiff, Ella Flores, Paige Flores, Ava Raymond, Ella Sheffer, Paige Steffke, Kariesue Taghon, Jaiden Thompson, Eleanor Valkner

