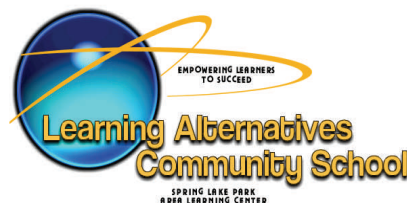


June 1, 2011

LACS

Weekly News Updates

Learning Alternatives Community School



Interim Director's Perspective



Greetings,

It is hard to believe that the year is coming to an end. Last week students participated in mini-course week. The outdoor adventure class is the highlight of this newsletter. Other course offerings were *Geography of Foods*, *Romance Film and Art*, and *Aerospace*. The students really enjoy these intensive

weeks.

Graduation is upon us. A reminder to graduating seniors, graduation rehearsal is Friday at 9:00 am in the Performance Gym. Attendance at rehearsal is mandatory. On Saturday, graduation line-up begins at 6:30 pm. Be sure to return your gown immediately following the ceremony and receive your diploma.

Please remember to return all library books to the library! Graduating seniors will need to pay for any book that is not returned prior to receiving their diploma. So, make sure to take time searching for books to return to school.

The LA Picnic is scheduled for the last day of school, June 9, 2011, at Terrace Park.

A reminder for those students attending summer school, we will see your bright smiling faces on Monday, June 13, at 8:30 am.

Sue Kvidera
Interim Director

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Parent Portal

- Online access to secure and timely information about your child's class schedule, attendance, report card, and transcript.
- Up-to-date contact information and email addresses will ensure that you receive alerts as well as news updates and newsletters.
- For more information, or to sign up for an account, visit "Parent Portal" on our website.
- If you need technical assistance: Call 763-795-5901 or email portal@district16.org

News From Around the School:

LA Day Program



LACS students and staff hit the road for the Canadian border this spring, thanks in part to the generous support of our community.



Nine students and two staff took part in a one week Outdoor Adventure: Learning and Leadership experience.

"We started Outdoor Adventure (OA) eight years ago with goals of helping at-risk teens experience greater Minnesota and learn about themselves through challenge and adventure," explains Sada Ganske, OA founder and LACS teacher, "and with the support of the KiMa Foundation and the Panther Foundation, we were able to recognize our true potential this year: We took nine teens to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for a once-in-a-lifetime experience I hope they never forget."

In order to go on the adventure, students had to be nominated by staff, meet academic and attendance criteria and then go through an interview process. "It was pretty thorough; Brett and I met with parents, interviewed students and then had to make some tough decisions. We wanted to make sure that we were bringing a good representation of the different types of leaders from our school, and the students had to be willing to do nightly reflections and really participate in the activities," said Sada.

Students started their adventure with a day trip to Vertical Endeavors (V.E.) in St. Paul. V.E. is the Midwest's largest indoor rockwall climbing facility. In addition to climbing rocks, "we learned about communicating clearly, recognizing our limits and encouraging one another when we got in a tough spot," said Jonisha S.

After first aid training, wilderness survival training and a refresher on leave-no-trace camping, Sada and Brett loaded the vans with gear and students and drove two hours north.



"Our first stop was Jay Cooke State Park, near Carlton, MN. I loved the landscape; climbing on rock outcroppings and following the river to different waterfalls. It was beautiful, and I felt like I was an adventurer hiking off the trails like we did," relayed Kalie K.

After Jay Cooke State Park, we headed another hour north to Canal Park in Duluth, MN.

"This was my first time in Duluth. I had no idea Lake Superior was so big. It was freezing cold and looked like an ocean," recalled Johnathan C.



"After we left Duluth, we traveled to Camp du Nord to hike, camp, fish, kayak and canoe. I had never been that far north... it was nearly a three hour van ride from Duluth. Luckily, we rode up with some great people," explained Nate J.

"Camp du Nord is on Burntside Lake northwest of Ely, MN. We were 15 minutes from the Canadian border and surrounded by the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The place was beautiful. I loved floating in a kayak on the water. It was cold, but the more I paddled the warmer I got," remembered Tony M.

"The water was frigid," commented Dan B., "but even after I tipped my kayak, I went ashore, warmed up and went back out on the water. You just don't want to miss out on scenery like that."



"I love camping and fishing. Some of the other people in our group had never been in a canoe or used or a fishing pole, so we worked together to make sure everyone got to enjoy the experience," volunteered Lauren E.

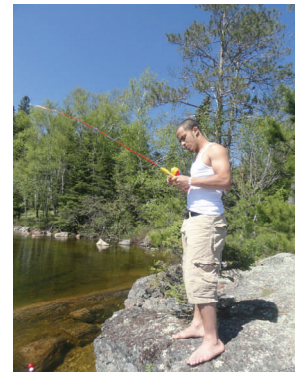
"We didn't catch any fish, but we got to hike a lot and paddle out to islands made of basalt and to a loon sanctuary," Josh A. chimed in.

"The whole place was so quiet. I kept expecting to hear traffic or noise, but there was just nature. It made it so easy to listen to the people around you and to hear what was going on," reflected Johnathan C.



When asked about the experience, Brian E. summed it up by saying "The camp site was so peaceful, and I learned that I have skills I never knew I had, like fishing and canoeing."

"I love to hear the participants talk about the experience. They went on an adventure with people they typically don't hang out with. We got to build relationships with students outside of the classroom. We explored a new environment and learned so much about ourselves and each other." - Sada



Upcoming Dates & Events

- **June 1**— No Late Start—School begins at 7:35 am
- **June 1**—Learner Celebration at 9:00 am
- **June 3**—Graduation Rehearsal at 9:00 am
- **June 4**—Graduation/Line up at 6:30 pm
- **June 9**—Last Day of School/Picnic at Terrace Park



Thoughts on the Go:

“Successful schools have teachers with a strong sense of community and a shared mission.”

~ Thomas Sergiovanni