

DECEMBER 9, 2024

VOLUME 1

# Licking Regional Educational Service Center

Your Vital Link to Improve Learning Opportunities and supports for Students and Staff.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Dale Lewellen, Superintendent

As I write this introduction to the inaugural issue of the Licking Regional Educational Service Center Newsletter on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on the aspects of our service area that make it great. Our area is blessed with caring, compassionate people at every level of educational service. I want to thank all school district staff and community members for the work you do to help children grow in all aspects of their lives.

Also, I want to thank our directors who contributed to the content of this newsletter so you can be better informed about the work of our organization.

Happy Holidays!!

## Newsletter Highlights

A Message from your E.S.C. Superintendent

Buzzy the Bee available to your school.

Supporting Quality Gifted Education

Flying Colors Playground Improvement Project

Upcoming Events Presented by Our Related Services Department

MD Cooperative Classroom Projects

Literacy and Principal Networks Collaborate on School Improvement

Phoenix Central Welcomes Lilly the Therapy Dog

Supporting Quality Gifted Education

Flying Colors Preschool Promotes Creative Projects and Family Engagement



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## PLAYGROUND PROJECT



The Flying Colors Preschool Playground Improvement Project is a comprehensive initiative aimed at replacing the current 30-year old playground with a state of the art facility that prioritizes safety, accessibility, and inclusive play for all children.

[See last page of this newsletter for information on how you can support this project.](#)

## BUZZY THE BEE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S EVENTS

Buzzy the Attendance Bee is available to your school district for events by contacting your local Attendance Officer or by emailing Director Dale Dickson at [ddickson@lcesc.org](mailto:ddickson@lcesc.org).

Buzzy can help your school promote the message of how important it is for students to “Bee” in school. Reach out today to arrange for Buzzy to be delivered to your school for your next assembly, ball game, or community event.



## Message from Director of Auxiliary Services Dale L. Dickson



It is a pleasure working to provide supports to the many schools in our service area. Providing direct hire employment services, writing and managing grants, providing threat assessment training, facilitating Attendance Officer, Transportation Supervisor, Maintenance Supervisor Cohorts, reviewing and sharing quality programs/initiatives, working to foster partnerships that promote improved learning opportunities and workforce development are among the duties on which I focus.



## SUPPORTING QUALITY GIFTED EDUCATION

The Office of Gifted Education has been hard at work supporting students and teachers throughout our network of schools. The fall and early winter have included conducting high-quality professional development, meeting with teachers in the field to support them at the classroom level, evaluating students on an on-going basis to help maximize their learning, and many other tasks. Everything is done through the lens of supporting our gifted learners and ensuring their teachers have the tools and knowledge necessary to grow our kids academically and beyond.



PIC: STEPHANIE AND HER HUSBAND MATT

Our newest Gifted Coordinator, Stephanie Clark, joined us in August. Stephanie comes to us after spending over 12 years as a Teacher and Intervention Specialist in Oklahoma and Ohio. Her experience and expertise working in special education has proven to be a valuable resource to the team as they work to create impactful educational opportunities for all of our students.

### Message from Director of Staff Development Jason Hankinson



Working side by side with teachers and administrators in our schools gives me the opportunity to see, first hand, the amazing work that is being done to support students and families throughout the LRESC network of districts and beyond. My responsibilities include supervising the Office of Gifted Education, coordinating the LRESC Resident Educator Consortium, and supporting the varied state evaluation models including serving as a Lead State Trainer.





**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**MARCH 15TH IS THE FAMILY  
FUN RESOURCE FAIR AT  
HEATH MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FROM 11-2 FREE EVENT OPEN  
TO ALL**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**APRIL 5TH IS SENSITIVE  
BUNNY EVENT- PRE-  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
[RGERBER@LACA.ORG](mailto:RGERBER@LACA.ORG)**

**RELATED SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
PLANNING EXCELLENT EVENTS FOR  
STUDENTS**



The related service department is preparing for our 6th [Sensitive Santa event on December 14th](#). We host this event each year for families with children with physical, sensory, mental, social, and emotional needs to provide an open and calm space for these students to spend time with Santa, receive a gift, and participate in our “winter wonderland” of games, activities, crafts, and cooking-decorating. Our registration for the year is closed, as we have 78 students signed up from 11 different districts.



**Message from Director of Related Services  
Rachel Gerber**



October was Physical Therapy Month and we have been celebrating our 4 amazing Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants! November was School Psychologist Week and in March we will be Celebrating World Behavior Analyst Day!



## HOLIDAY FUN IN THE MD CLASSROOM!



**ABOVE:** Julie Meyer's class at Newton Elementary is learning about the origins and traditions of the Christmas tree. They designed their own Christmas trees using a pine tree pattern and colored pencils. They had a great time making it sparkle with gold and silver glitter!

**BELOW:** Heather Wenning's class at Granville High School got into the Thanksgiving spirit and celebrated with a classroom feast.



### **PROJECT SEARCH:**

**LEFT:** THIS IS OUR SERVICE PROJECT IN THE LICKING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL GARDENS THIS PAST FALL. INTERNS REALLY ENJOYED THE DAY, AND WE ARE GOING BACK IN THE SPRING.

## Message from Director of MD Special Education



Through our partnership with the Heath, Granville, and North Fork school districts, we provide educational and transition services for students with multiple disabilities. Our focus is on academics, fostering independence, and growth for our students from multiple school districts throughout Licking County. We have a dedicated staff who work closely with our students and families to ensure that our students are cared for and able to reach their full potential.





## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

The Literacy Leader Network (LLN) supports district leaders in improving literacy outcomes. Meeting monthly, it provides professional development, resources, and opportunities for collaboration. Members of the LLN share insights, address challenges, and discuss action plans to enhance literacy instruction, driving lasting improvements in literacy achievement at the district and school levels. Winter Literacy Leader Meeting

**Dates: January 7 and February 4**

The Principal Network connects school leaders to discuss relevant issues, share resources, and collaborate on solutions to common challenges. This network fosters professional growth and promotes effective strategies to improve school management and student outcomes across the region.

**Winter Principal Meeting Dates:  
January 16 and February 27**



## PRINCIPAL NETWORK

### Message from Director of School Improvement



Through our Structured Literacy and School Improvement services, we collaborate with districts to assess needs, implement effective literacy frameworks, and provide professional learning for administrators, teachers, and teams. Our targeted support equips districts with the tools and strategies to enhance literacy achievement for all students. For more information about this service, contact Marcie Wilson at [marciwilson@laca.org](mailto:marciwilson@laca.org).





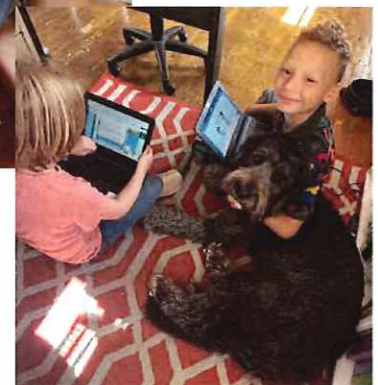
We are proud to celebrate our largest graduating class ever this past year and look forward to guiding the next group of students toward their own milestones and successes. Thank you to our dedicated staff, students, families, and partner districts for making this journey impactful and inspiring.

## LILLY THE THERAPY DOG JOINS STAFF OF PHOENIX CENTRAL

We are thrilled to introduce Lilly, our certified therapy dog, who has joined the school this year. Lilly visits us twice a week and has quickly become a beloved member of our community.

She brings joy, comfort, and support to students of all ages, and her presence is already making a positive impact in classrooms and beyond. We are excited to see the many ways Lilly will continue to enhance the well-being of our students and staff.

Welcome to the team, Lilly!



## Message from Director of Phoenix Alternative School



It continues to be a great pleasure working with 14 different area school districts to meet the needs of students with complex behavioral needs. Together, we strive to provide tailored support and meaningful opportunities for growth.



# FALL FESTIVAL AND POPSICLES WITH PEEPS



## Upcoming Events

We will be hosting a Christmas Tree Walk on December 13 from 4pm to 6pm. Our students and their families are invited to walk the halls that will be lined with Christmas trees and see their student's artwork and ornaments. They will also have a chance to have their photo taken with Santa.

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During the month of December, parents and family members are invited to their child's classroom to decorate gingerbread houses.

We held our annual Fall Festival October 28 -31. Pete the Cat visited the classrooms and children participated in a variety of fun fall themed activities.

Our Popsicles with Peeps event was held on October 3. 218 family members attended this event where they enjoyed a popsicle and spent time playing with their child on our playground.



## Message from Director of Flying Colors Preschool



We have had a great start to our school year and we continue to enroll new students. Our Flying Colors staff have shown great creativity and initiative in planning fun and engaging learning activities for their students and their families. Students are growing every day, learning new skills and making new friends.



# LICKING COUNTY FOUNDATION

## FLYING COLORS PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT FUND



### *Charitable Purpose*

Gifts to this Project Fund will help Flying Colors Preschool replace the current 30-year-old playground with a state-of-the-art facility that prioritizes safety, accessibility, and inclusive play for all children. It has been designed to create a modern and safe play environment, addressing both developmental needs and ensuring compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

The newly designed playground will feature a variety of specialized equipment that encourages interactive and sensory-rich play. Key features include:

- A large play structure
- Unity swing frame with a basket swing
- Spring riders
- A spin station
- A slide mound
- Log steppers and a log balance beam
- Percussion Play Outdoor Musical Instruments

The public can help Flying Colors Preschool secure a generous gift from the Licking Regional Educational Services Center governing board who will match each gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$150,000.

### HOW TO SUPPORT

**Online:** To give by credit card, visit [www.thelcfoundation.org](http://www.thelcfoundation.org) and click on "Donate." You may direct your gifts to this fund by searching for the Flying Colors Preschool Playground Improvement Fund by name at the bottom of the page.

**Mail:** To give by check, make it payable to the Licking County Foundation, note Flying Colors Preschool Playground in the memo line and mail to: Licking County Foundation | PO Box 4212 | Newark, OH 43058-4212.

Scan:



Donations of any size are welcome and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

To learn more, contact Leslie Bline at [leslie@thelcfoundation.org](mailto:leslie@thelcfoundation.org), 740.349.3863 x100.