



# THE "ROCKET REPORT"

"IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROCKET!"

WINTER 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2017

## LOWELLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT LAUNCHES THE "ROCKET REPORT!"

### Superintendent's Message...

We are proud to introduce the first quarterly newsletter highlighting the Lowellville Local School District and its programs. This newsletter will focus on the programs, staff and students of the Lowellville Local Schools. We hope you enjoy reading about the accomplishments and "happenings" in your school community and have a better understanding how everyone can contribute and support our most valuable asset; THE STUDENTS!

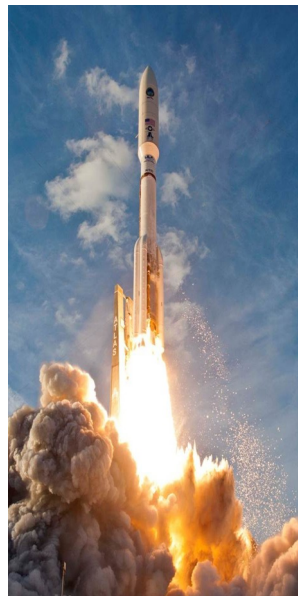
Over the last few years, The Lowellville Local School District has been building on the foundation of academic excellence and community involvement. It is paramount that we create and support a learning environment that ensures all youth diverse opportunities to succeed and flourish. In order to accomplish the annual goals for each year, the Lowellville students, staff, parents and community under-

take many challenges and opportunities. This commitment toward our long lasting tradition of excellence helps students flourish and adapt to the multitude of challenges society poses as well as create a foundation for our graduates to enter the real world and complex work force.

Some of the initiatives implemented over the past two years included implementing the Guided Reading program at the elementary school. Coupled with increased community engagement opportunities, the schools were able to launch into year two with unfettered focus and study the impact of online and blended learning. To date, we continue to study how these twenty-first century tools can enhance and accelerate student preparedness for the future. As we implement our various growth and development systems, we will continue to monitor and adapt plans so that our highly qualified teaching staff can

create the best school experiences for all ensuring that our graduates are college and career ready!

- **Dr. Eugene M. Thomas**  
"It's A Great Day To Be A Rocket!"



## We Appreciate Our Senior Citizens!

For the third year, as part of the Lowellville Local School District's efforts to showcase its student excellence, programs and incredible staff, the first monthly "Senior Citizen" luncheon is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 25, 2017 beginning at 10:00 a.m.** This event will be open for Lowellville senior citizens to eat lunch and take a student led tour of the facilities. The

luncheon is designed to invite our long-standing supporters that may no longer have children in school to see how the school has evolved. Also, the student tour guides will showcase our school-wide programming, answer questions about the school and make you proud of the excellence that continues to thrive in the District! There is no cost for your participation!

If you plan to participate in this event, please **RSVP** by calling Ms. Lucido in the Principal's office by **Monday, January 23, 2017**. Also, if you need transportation, please be sure to let Ms. Lucido know so that we can schedule pick-up and drop-off by the Village of Lowellville senior citizens' shuttle. Finally, thank you to all that attended the last two years and be sure to tell a friend!

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## A Message From Your Principal



Greetings Rocket Families, Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a chance to relax and enjoy quality time with family and friends over the holiday season. It's hard to believe that January 13th will mark the end of the second nine weeks and semester. Our high school students will be taking their midterm exams on January 9th-12th. January 13th will be used as a make-up day for any student that needs to complete a midterm exam. In addition, all K-12 students will be released two hours earlier than normal on Friday, January 13th to allow our teach-

ers to participate in professional development.

As we begin our second semester, we will continue our focus on excellence in teaching and learning. Our goal is to ensure that every child receives a world-class education. We are committed to providing each student with engaging lessons that challenge them at the highest level. We are also committed to the success of each student and hope that every student will feel connected to school through positive relationships with each other and our staff.

Please feel free to contact your son's or daughter's teachers if you have any questions about their progress and final standing in any of their courses. We also encourage all parents to attend our next parent-teacher conference night on Thursday, February, 16th. Please email your child's teacher to schedule a conference. We appreciate your support and are honored that you afford us the opportunity to work with your children.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Christine Sawicki**  
K-12 Principal

## Lowellville Guidance Counselor's Corner



Welcome to the Counselor's Corner! This year, the counseling department consists of Mrs. Liz Calderon and Mrs. Dena O'Neill. This is Mrs. Calderon's first year as the High School Counselor, but she was the Lowellville Elementary Counselor for the prior three years. This is Mrs. O'Neill's first year in a counseling position, and she covers the elementary wing. Prior to earning her Master's Degree in School Counseling, she was a Language Arts teacher in the high school.

As a team, they have begun to put together a Comprehensive School Counseling Program that covers

grades K-12 in an effort to create cohesion and continuity throughout the district in what the students are learning. They are excited about some of the programming that is happening this year and what is to come.

For example, in October, Red Ribbon week happened throughout the entire district. All students dressed down for different theme days that dealt with drug and alcohol prevention, and all students received classroom guidance lessons. There was also a presentation in November by Sergeant McGinnis of the United States Army who spoke to the students

about bullying, how to respond to individuals when they are mean, and how to be resilient. That same month, counselors went into all of the classrooms in grades 5-12 to speak to students about the Sandy Hook Promise and how to recognize signs of impending violence or suicide in order to prevent it by Saying Something to a trusted adult. In December, the focus of the counselor's program was career readiness.

Overall, both counselors are excited for the school year and creating a new program that they hope will continue to benefit all of the students that they serve.

## A Message From Your Lowellville PTO



The Lowellville Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) would like to enthusiastically welcome you to join our fantastic group. For those who are unfamiliar with us, we are a volunteer organization made up of parents, teachers, administrators and support staff who are all dedicated to the successful education of our children. The PTO works hard and in collaboration with the school to help make the year enjoyable, educational and exciting for all students, teachers and parents.

One of our primary responsibilities is to aid the students and

staff by providing support for educational and recreational needs. Among the different ways we support our school includes having book fairs, Santa's workshop and sponsoring educational programs throughout the year. Ideally, we are really motivated to assist with open communication and encourage Lowellville school spirit and pride. Overall, the PTO uses its human and fiscal resources to support all efforts of the staff of our school. Please, we are always looking forward to recruiting and meeting families, parents and grandparents that

would like to get involved with the PTO. We encourage you to not only join our organization, but get involved as well! Everything we do is based on volunteers and we are always looking for those of you to help to make a difference in the lives of our children. Every positive imprint we make on our children can go a long, long way. If you are able to give your time, day or evenings, please contact us and join us in the mission to provide the best possible support for our students, school and community!

**- Pam Kumer, PTO President**  
(pamkumer@gmail.com)



## "SPIRIT" Sweeps Through Lowellville

The Lowellville Local Schools coordinated a Spirit Committee to help plan, organize and coordinate school spirit events for the students and community. In collaboration with the Boosters and PTO, the committee began scheduling a multitude of activities for students and parents to partake. Activities that occurred in the month of October included:

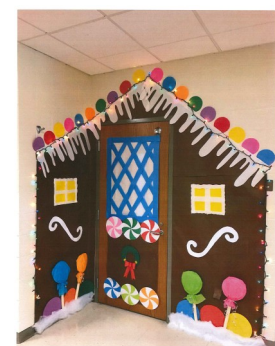
- K-12 Spirit week for homecoming, bonfire, parade, pep rally and the snake.
- Booster parents decorated the village with signs and toilet paper.

- Students purchased balloons and were on the field for the run through tunnel. (Homecoming game)
- The 2nd annual alumni cheerleaders performed.
- The Band paraded through the halls and lunches.
- A dance occurred after the football game sponsored by the Boosters.
- Red Ribbon Week for students. There was dress down themes for each day of the week.

The month of November and December brought some crea-

tive ideas and a little competition as well. The marquee event was the DOOR DECORATING CONTEST for all students K-12. The theme for the doors was Christmas or Winter Holidays. All doors were on display at conference night on November 22nd and remained decorated until December 21st. After the voting was completed, the PTO provided the winning rooms (doors) hot chocolate and doughnuts. The two "winners" were Mrs. Boila and Mrs. Sanders. The vote occurred during parent conferences.

The school plans to have other door decorating contests throughout the year.



## A Message From Your Lowellville Crescendo Club

The Lowellville Crescendo Club has exciting news to report from the high school music department. The junior high and high school concert bands were recently invited to perform at the Ohio Band Directors Conference. The event was held on Saturday, December 3rd at the University of Akron. Our Lowellville bands were two of three bands selected as featured performers.

Composer Mark Camphouse visited Lowellville High School on December 1st to work with the high school concert band during band class. He conducted the band as they performed one of his works at the conference. The high school concert band was also selected to perform at the Ohio Music Education Association (O.M.E.A.) state conference. The conference features the

premier music groups from the state of Ohio. The high school concert band will perform on Saturday, February 4, at 12:15 p.m. in the Cleveland Convention Center. The performance is free and open to the public. Finally, please consider supporting the Crescendo Club spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Sunday, February 26th from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Lowellville High School cafetorium.



## A Message From Your Lowellville Athletic Boosters

The Lowellville Athletic Boosters are under new leadership this year after eight years of hard work and dedication from the former leadership team of Stacey Harklerode, Sue Minnie, Angel McLaughlin and Lynn Beatty. These dedicated officers went above and beyond for the students and staff of Lowellville High School. We hope to achieve the same success as they have in years past. The new

Lowellville Athletic Boosters include Betsy Michaels, Adrienne Sepesy, Debbie Mellilo and Michelle Pazel. The Athletic Boosters will be holding several fundraisers throughout the year to provide the athletic programs and students with uniforms, pre game meals and dances for the students after games. We hope to see you at the events and look forward to an exciting year! We wish all of our Lowellville

athletes good luck. Thank you for your continued support!



Call Your School Office to Order Your "Rocket Gear" From The Spirit Store!

## LOWELLVILLE Rockets

Lowellville Local School District  
52 Rocket Place  
Lowellville, Ohio 44436

PHONE: 330-536-8426  
FAX: 330-536-8468

**"It's A Great Day To Be A Rocket!"**



**We're on the Web:**  
[www.lowellville.k12.oh.us](http://www.lowellville.k12.oh.us)

## Number "10" Being Retired!

It is with great honor to announce that on February 10, 2017 at halftime of the Boys' Varsity basketball game, 2005 Girls' Basketball standout Amanda Nero will be honored with the retirement of her uniform number "10." Coach Tony Matisi once said that, "She is a very, very competitive person who won't allow herself to make mistakes. She wants to be perfect, and she works 24/7." This was true of Amanda's stellar career whereas she was a 4-year starter, held a solid 3.9 grade point average and was named player of the year. Overall, Amanda Nero became the school's all-time leading scorer with more than 1,900 career points and went on to play basketball at the Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. Respectively, Amanda Nero joins the exclusive ranks as one of only three athletes to have their numbers retired at the Lowellville Local School District!

**CONGRATS AMANDA!**



## A Message From Your Lowellville Foundation

The Lowellville School Foundation was created in 2006 for the purpose of awarding scholarships to graduating LHS seniors. Thanks to the generous support of its donors, the Foundation has awarded scholarships totaling \$127,750 to 78 graduating seniors. These graduates are achieving impressive accomplishments and successes in higher education and their careers.

To further its mission, the Foundation also offers Lowellville K-12 teachers two opportunities each school year to apply for grants to fund classroom materials and other initiatives to enhance

the educational opportunities available to their students. Past grant recipients included Mr. Matt Olson (illuminated orbiter), Mr. Solak (classroom graphing calculators), Mr. Antonucci (music software), Mrs. Sawicki/Mrs. Larussi (Blended Learning equipment/professional development), Ms. Yates (Algeblocks), Ms. DiRienzo (professional development) and Guidance Department (character education programming).

Save the date for the Foundation's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Reverse Raffle dinner, Sunday, April 23, 2017. This is the Foundation's primary fundraiser.

Tickets are \$35 and includes dinner and a chance to win the \$2,000 grand prize and other cash prizes. Tickets will be available starting in mid-January.

The Foundation Board members include: Dr. Eugene Thomas, Superintendent; Greg Slemons, Treasurer; Liz Calderon, Guidance Counselor; Joe Ballone, Board of Education and volunteers Jennifer Coppola Johnson, Rebecca Jamrozik-Mickler, Carmelann Maszczak and Carmela Minnie.

