

May 14, 2019

LivingstonESA.org



From Dr. Michael Hubert, Livingston ESA Superintendent

Updates to the Agency's Strategic Plan: At the meeting last Wednesday, the Board of Education embraced [some changes to the Strategic Plan](#). We've made [a lot of progress on our strategic initiatives](#), and this action by the Board reflects the first formal update since the plan was adopted in February of 2018.

Why Goal #9? *Ultimately, I hope everyone will experience a greater sense of trust and cooperation in their work environment - where new ideas, collaboration, and communication are encouraged and each of you feel supported by those around you. I recently watched a TEDTALK in which Simon Simek addressed [why good leaders make you feel safe](#). In his talk, Simon amplified a point that remains a personal goal, which is for **everyone to feel safe and protected by the Agency**. The presence of those feelings are what create the conditions that inspire trust and cooperation within the Agency. Simon is spot-on in his claim that leadership is a choice, not a rank. The choices we make collectively in our respective leadership roles (and each of us has at least one) are what will either accelerate or hinder our progress towards achieving educational excellence.*

New Curriculum & Instruction Department at the Agency: The changes I wrote about previously are well underway. Beginning July 1st, the Agency will be providing curriculum and instruction supports to all schools in Livingston County as a direct service. We recently finished interviews for the new Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Learning and I hope to make an introduction in our next eBrief. Our next hire will be the Executive Assistant for this new department but before we post it we have to plan the extent to which student data systems will be part of the essential functions. Hopefully we will have that worked out and the position posted by the end of next week.

New Communication Plan: A draft communication plan was presented to the Board of Education last Wednesday by the communication consultant from the Association of Educational Service Agencies. The plan will be formalized over the next month and readied for adoption before the end of June. One key initial step will be the *creation of a communication specialist position* within the Agency. A posting for that new job will be advertised by the end of next week and we hope to have someone on board by July 1st so we can begin work on many of the objectives established in the communication plan.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Support Staff Person of the Year

From Doug Haseley

"You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins." – Jim Stovall

Kind. Supportive. He is amazing. Great problem solver. Hard worker. Student focused. Fast acting when something needs to be done and at Smith, we refer to him as our very own Mr. Rogers....these attributes can only describe one person.

One LESA Social Worker who truly embraces both collaboration and educational excellence is Robert Doerner. Robert has served as a School Social Worker supporting Fowlerville Schools since joining LESA in 2015. I am excited to share that at their April 9th board meeting, Robert was recognized by the Fowlerville Board of Education as Support Person of the Year. Robert continues to follow other LIPSA staff receiving this local district award including Melissa Woerner, Laurie Clausen, Crystal McKelvey, Stephanie Montgomery and Denise Wood.



As part of the nomination process for this high accolade, staff submit written letters describing why the person of nomination is deserving of the award.

"Robb has been in Fowlerville for three years now. He started in the job mid-year and took off running from day one. And at Smith and Kreeger it is literally running....down the halls, on the playground, and office to office."

Please join me in applauding Robb's efforts and acknowledging his success. Congratulations to our very own Mr. Rogers!

Robb, thank you for all you do for kids. This award is well deserved.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

It's Preschool Enrollment Time!



From Sean LaRosa

Did you know that the Livingston ESA offers free high-quality preschool programs to children throughout Livingston County? Although it seems too early to be thinking about, we are currently accepting applications for fall 2019-2020 enrollment.

Our preschool programs include Great Start Readiness (state funded for eligible 4 year olds) and Head Start (federally funded for 3 and 4 year olds). Both programs utilize a research-based curriculum in a supportive learning environment to assist children with the development of the skills needed to be ready for kindergarten and beyond. We support preschoolers in their development of



early literacy, math and social-emotional skills needed for school success. Children learn skills to negotiate, problem solve, and develop empathy, as they interact with their peers and other adults in early childhood settings.

Decisions for enrollment into Head Start and Great Start Readiness Program classrooms are based on individual family experiences; one or more of these experiences may qualify a child:

- Family Income
- Concerns regarding child's development
- Challenging behavior
- English language learners
- Family school difficulties
- Environmental Risk (Abuse, Addiction, Mental Health)
- Single parent home due to divorce, deployment, incarceration, illness
- Change in guardianship

Parents can apply by completing the [2019-2020 Enrollment Form](#). Applications are routed to an Early Childhood staff member who then contacts families to discuss enrollment options. Families can either meet 1:1 with a Family Enrollment Specialist or attend a monthly Open Enrollment Fair held on the following dates:

May 10th	8am-4pm
June 13th	8am-4pm
July 18th	8am-4pm

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SECONDARY OPTIONS

Livingston County Road Rally

From Michelle Radcliffe

On April 25, 2019 over \$11,000 in scholarship money and tuition was raised by the LivCo Road Rally event to support students in Livingston County pursuing a high-demand, high wage career.



These careers, named the [Hot 50 in Michigan](#), range from on-the-job training and licensing programs such



as insurance sales agents to doctoral degree programs such as physical therapists. Over 40 students in our county submitted a scholarship application and a quarter of these students will receive an award to support their education and training after high school.

These scholarships are possible because of the generous sponsors such as, [Hartland Insurance](#), [Ann Arbor Spark](#), [Puzzled Escape](#), and [Paul Davis Restoration](#) and the sixty plus participants that drove around the county solving clues

and puzzles visiting eight different pit stops in this second annual scavenger hunt. Laura Hoehn from Livingston ESA led an amazing team that helped coordinate the entire event. Check the Twitter [#livcoroadrally](#) for funny pictures from the event, as well as the [LCCAN website](#) for updates on scholarship recipients.



Several Livingston ESA employees participated in the LivCo Road Rally, with two members (Michelle Radcliffe and Mark Rogers) of the Mystery Machine - the eventual winners - shown here calling home to announce their victory!

The event was a huge success and we look forward to the growth of opportunities in supporting students for life after high school!

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COLLABORATION

Michigan Weather

From Alice Johnson

Oh this Michigan weather, when will we see warm sunny days?

Our transportation supervisors spent a great deal of the winter checking the roads and the outside temperatures to report to our local Superintendent so that they can determine whether we should have school. Thankfully we are now past that season and are heading into spring weather.

During the month of April the transportation departments received training on inclement weather, which included Tornado Preparedness. Part of the training taught awareness about changing weather conditions and when one should seek shelter. All transportation departments follow the National Weather Service Advisories.

With a bus full of students, where would you go? We are fortunate that we have collaborated with many community businesses, churches and fire stations throughout Livingston County who have identified themselves as a safe place to bring our children if we need to evacuate the bus.

During the spring months bus drivers also practice bus evacuation drills with their students. The evacuation drills help teach students what to expect during a real emergency and also give drivers important insight on how they can manage students during an emergency situation.

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PARENTS & COMMUNITY

Learning To Read Begins At Birth

From Sean LaRosa

Learning to read begins long before a child enters school. It is a journey that begins when a child enters a family, it begins at birth! Early interactions between a parent and baby actually form the building blocks for language and literacy development. Families have the power to shape learning by sharing everyday moments because children learn best when they do things with someone they love.



Talking Together

So much brain growth happens through talking and listening. When parents talk through daily routines like feeding or bathtime, they are helping to create powerful connections that will last a lifetime! Talking to a baby while looking her in the eye and waiting for a response (waving of the arms, coo, or smile) is beginning the process of learning to read!

Reading Together

Books are brain boosters! Parents can support their child's brain development by cuddling up and sharing a book. The more a child is read to from the very start, the more his brain will make connections to the world around him. By asking questions, pointing out letters, words and pictures as they read, parents are strengthening connections being made by their baby's brain and creating important building blocks for learning to read.

Singing Together

Songs are a great way for a child to learn language and build vocabulary. Singing familiar songs together while riding in the car, changing diapers or even in the bathtub supports bonding. Making sounds to communicate is the beginning of language and literacy development.

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LEADERSHIP - LOCAL DISTRICT

Study Of Early Literacy Pre-K

By Sean LaRosa

In August 2019 we kicked off the Pre-K Study Of Early Literacy (SOEL) professional learning network. A group of 18 early childhood educators spent two days learning about the Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy, Pre-K. They reflected on their current implementation of the Essential Practices and formed study groups to work with.

The cohort then met for 5 full days throughout the school year and took a deeper dive into the Essential Instructional Practices. Tanya Wright, Associate Professor of Language and Literacy, Department of Teacher Education at MSU joined us to teach us more about developing vocabulary through interactive read alouds and extended conversations (Essential #3).

Network teachers reflect on the year of learning and noted:

Teacher Growth

- More purposeful read alouds and careful planning of vocabulary instruction
- Intentional teaching of phonemic awareness throughout the day
- Using research based strategies to support literacy
- More intentional and creating individualized instruction
- Commitment to self reflection and meaningful learning
- Mindset change in how we teach early literacy

Student Growth

- Children showing greater confidence, taking control of their own learning
- Greater confidence and interest in reading books and writing
- Higher engagement due to greater access to literacy
- Extended use of new vocabulary in all areas of the day
- More prepared for kindergarten than ever before

Looking Ahead

In 2019-2020 Pre-K SOEL Cohort #1 will learn how to conduct teacher action research and how to measure the impact of instructional changes they are making. We will also form Pre-K SOEL Cohort #2 so stay tuned!

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