



Glen Lake COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Home
of the
Lakers

VOL. 37, NO. 2

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY FOR THE COMMUNITY

WINTER 2025



Laker Community,

We hope this message finds you well and that you had a great holiday season. As we now enter into the early stages of 2025, we also wish you a happy new year.

The new year brings new excitement to our school, students and families who we serve. As always, the winter months bring a high level of activity with our school events and extracurricular activities. It is great to see so many community members fill our school in support of our students in the pursuit of their passions.

The year 2025 will also begin a transformation of our school building facility. This stems from our community's support of the most recent bond issue—thank you! The main focus of the facility work is replacing our outdated HVAC system. This work will begin this April and will most likely last two years. Listed below are some sequential improvements that will be occurring at Glen Lake Community Schools:

- One (of two) of our current steam boilers will be removed in April to make room for new, energy efficient hot water boilers. Only one will be removed at this time because the scope of work is too large to completely replace the steam section of the building in one summer. We need to keep one boiler to continue to heat the remaining steam section through the winter of 25/26.
- The 200 wing (middle school) of the building will be converted from steam to hot water service in time for students to return in the fall of '25. The current horizontal unit ventilators will be replaced

with vertical unit ventilators with duct work for distribution in the classroom. When these units are replaced, each classroom will also receive new ceiling tiles, paint, casework and flooring. In other words, every classroom will receive a "refresh/remodel" when the HVAC system is replaced.

- We will also be looking to continue construction into the 2025/2026 school year to keep the progress moving. This will happen in one classroom at a time and we will keep distractions to the learning environment as minimal as possible. Teachers will have to move classrooms while a space is being worked on. This will allow us to be as efficient as possible with devoted facility improvement dollars.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for our community's support in this endeavor. It will positively impact children in our community for many years to come. We are committed to being steadfast stewards of our taxpayer money. We will continue to have a dedicated facilities improvement portion on our school website to document progress and how our community's tax dollars are being utilized.

Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support of our fantastic school.

Go Lakers!

~Jason Misner

Join
Us!

JOIN US
UNDER THE SEA FOR...



GLEN LAKE ELEMENTARY MUSICAL
PERFORMANCES MARCH 7 & 8

This spring,
join us in the swamp for...



Presented by
Glen Lake Secondary Theatre Department
Performances May 1 - 3

Elementary Builds a Culture of Reading Through ARC Core Pilot

Glen Lake Elementary is nearing the conclusion of its multi-year pilot of ARC Core, a literacy program grounded in the Science of Reading. This evidence-based approach to teaching reading has transformed classrooms and cultivated a school-wide culture of literacy, making books and learning an integral part of students' daily lives.

Since the program's introduction, teachers have embraced the challenge of implementing ARC Core, participating in specialized training and collaborating to ensure lessons meet the diverse needs of their students. Their dedication is paying off, as students across all grade levels show measurable growth - not only in reading ability but also in confidence and enthusiasm for books.

"ARC Core has really empowered our students to take ownership of their reading," said Principal Ryan Schrock. "Kids are setting goals, tracking their progress, and celebrating their achievements. The excitement and pride we see is incredible."

Classrooms are now alive with discussions about stories, critical thinking about texts, and students enthusiastically sharing their love for reading. The program emphasizes phonics, vocabulary building, and comprehension, creating a well-rounded approach to literacy that supports learners at all levels.

The pilot, which began two years



Students across all grade levels show measurable growth – not only in reading ability but also in confidence and enthusiasm for books.



ago, is now in its final year, with staff and the literacy leadership team gathering feedback and reviewing data to determine whether ARC Core will become a permanent part of the school's curriculum. "We're looking at how well the program aligns with our long-term goals for student success," said Schrock.

Parents and families have also played a key role in fostering this culture of reading, partnering with the school to encourage literacy at home. "We're so grateful for the support of our families," Schrock added. "Together, we're building a school community where every child can thrive as a reader and learner."

As the pilot phase winds down, the Glen Lake community can celebrate the progress made so far and look forward to a future where literacy remains at the heart of the school's mission.



Thunderstorms, blizzards, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, and floods are weather phenomena students are learning about.

Learning About Weather

Third grade is taking a deep dive into learning about weather and climate in our new ELA unit. Students are researching a weather phenomenon. They are using their research skills and new knowledge to become experts on their chosen topic. Our wintry weather has given some real life experience and built curiosity on some of these weather topics. Next, students will turn their learned knowledge into a book. Stay tuned!

Can You outrun a Dinosaur?

This is the important question third graders wanted to find out by putting their mathematical and scientific skills to the test. Students measured their leg and stride lengths and compared them to dinosaurs with similar lengths while running. Based on their measurements and testing, they found that humans would never have been able to outrun even the smallest species of dinosaurs. What a great way to see how our students measured up to these ancient beasts!



Enjoying Our Winter Wonderland

In Explorers, students have been embracing the snow. We have done winter wonderland hikes, tracking games, blindfold hikes, sit spots, and everything in between.



Change Drive Helps Families in Need

This year, the Young Fives and Kindergarten classrooms raised over \$1200 for families in need through our annual change drive. We were able to sponsor five Glen Lake students and purchase many needs and a few wants. All four classes went to Target and the students were able to pick out items from a list. Items were brought back to school and wrapped by the four classrooms. To celebrate the change drive success and the efforts of the classes, we also attended a showing of *The Polar Express* at the State Theater.



Middle School Robotics First Season a Grand Success!

Our rookie season was beyond fun and quite successful.

We had eight brilliant engineers on our team and we built our robot named Seaweed from 'scratch.' Following the First Tech Challenge Guidelines, we engineered a robot that could complete three tasks.

We regularly discussed how to have the best robot we can. Using critical thinking skills and collaborating, we know we are better together. The more brains involved the better.

After our discussions, we made prototypes using readily available parts. We reached out to teachers for a variety of parts that were 3D designed and we were able to purchase many key products. We also wrote a grant as a Rookie Team that provided us with funds to purchase essential items. The Design process is a Continual Improvement cycle. Our brains are always thinking about the next step to improve our robot.

After building the prototype, we began putting together our robot for competition. It took several attempts, modifications and adjustments. This helped our team learn better communication skills and practice with patience.

Once Seaweed, our robot, was together, we had to evaluate how well it worked. As a group, we discussed the strengths and weaknesses. We had to figure out what to keep the same and parts of the Robot that needed adjustments. The Evaluate process is also a Continual Improvement cycle. Our brains are always thinking about steps towards improvement.

Our team competed in Fruitport and Pellston. Competitions began on Friday evening where we checked in and had a few hours to practice on the field. The next morning we were up at 5:45 AM for breakfast as a team then headed to the school by 7:00 AM. It was an intense day where

we met in front of judges to share our Engineering Process and Design as well as answer other questions. Then we learned our alliance partners for each match. We had 5-7 matches to determine if we made the qualifying rounds!

We learned so much this year and can't wait for next year to start. During our down season, we are going to visit a Robotics Company in Traverse City to tour their facility. We also get to meet with a Universal Studios Engineer who designs roller coasters!

We want to thank all of our parents who supported our long practices and weekend competitions. A special thank you to our mentor, David Polito, who dedicated many hours to help us get our team established and learn the First Tech Challenge guidelines. It was an incredible season.

Robotics Team and Ms. R
Joey Bufka
Olivia Haywood
Marek KuKuruga
Vaughn KuKuruga
Emerson LaVanture
Dax Martinez
Markus Meade
James VanHaaren



We named our robot Seaweed.



G-L Students Share their Creative Talents



The band had a very successful first concert performance under the direction of Elaina Abarak. Ms. Abarak led the 7th/8th Grade band, the Jazz Combo, and the High School Band through a challenging and festive set of music that featured the skills and hard work of our musicians.



Third through fifth graders presented *The Singing II* concert last Halloween after the annual costume parade, where they sang silly songs in costume to celebrate the holiday. This concert is quickly becoming an annual tradition, and is definitely a student favorite. Adult helpers Mr. Jeremy Evans and Dr. Dorothy Vogel led the concert with the help of Mr. Rob Stow and Freshman drummer, Levi Wetmore.



Our High School Choir, North By NorthWest, performed with four other high schools and a professional orchestra at NMC to an overflowing crowd in November. It was an incredible experience for our students to sing with a large choir of 80. They achieved a high level performance that made our community proud.



The Middle School and High School choirs spent a day caroling and spreading Holiday cheer around the county nursing homes with a final stop to see Santa!



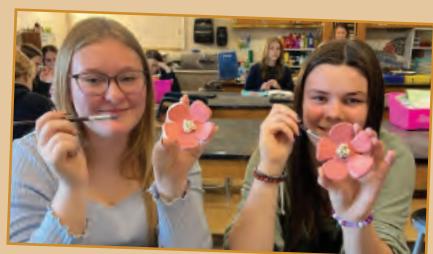
The *Attack of the Pom Pom Zombies* show November 21-23 had a great community audience each night.



Middle School art students learned how to hand sew five different kinds of stitches and made felt tree ornaments. They learned that sewing is relaxing, and that it takes time!



The High School 3D Design class led a project to make 75 clay poppies for Veterans Day to give to our service men and women. The clay was hand cut; pistils and stamens were made with a garlic press. The flowers were glazed, kiln-fired, and glazed again. All art students helped out.



STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Mrs. Jackson's class enjoyed a holiday STEM activity with magnets and turkeys! Their goal was to create a maze and help their turkey escape the farm to safety using magnets, cereal boxes, paper, and creativity.

FALL FLANNEL FESTIVAL



The inaugural **FALL FLANNEL FESTIVAL** at the end of September was a wonderful success that provided family fun, community connection, and an opportunity to enjoy all that makes the fall season wonderful here in Northern Michigan. Attendees enjoyed cider pressing, yard games, a pie eating contest, donuts, pig roast, and much more. The planning committee would like to thank the many volunteers and community members that helped make this event a success. And save the date! Next year's festival is scheduled for October 12, 2025.





Young fives enjoyed a day exploring Pahl's Pumpkin Patch and lunch in the park.



Students enjoyed participating in the annual pop-up farmers' market. Thank you to the Michigan State University Extension and our local farming community for making this event something our students look forward to every year.

The Cedar Fire Department visited school and talked about fire safety, did demonstrations, and showed the students the fire truck and ambulance.



Thank you to our local farmers for providing apples for this year's Michigan Apple Crunch!



First graders took a trip to Glen Haven to learn about maps, boats, and participate in a ranger-led hike on the Heritage Trail to the cabin at D.H. Day Campground.



Band Holiday Tree Decorating



For years, the High School Student Council has fund raised and adopted community members in need of help during the holiday season. This year, they were able to adopt four students and purchase three wants and three needs on their lists.





Empowering Glen Lake Tweens and Teens!

LIFT Middle School

Our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are thriving in their second year of LIFT's out-of-school program for Glen Lake Middle Schoolers. Together, we are growing so much through empowering and engaging opportunities.

Our summer months were packed with highlights like kayaking the Crystal River, pottery classes at Thoreson Farm, and our first annual trip to Mackinac Island. These experiences created lasting memories and prepared new and returning students for an exciting school year.

New local partnerships have brought a lot to our afterschool activities this fall.

Students visit Sea2Stable Horse Rescue Farm monthly, where they help with evening chores and bond with the horses. We've also introduced LIFT Lakers to Significant Strikes, teaching self-empowerment and healthy habits through self-defense classes. These opportunities are building skills, resilience, and a stronger sense of community for our students. We're excited to see what's next for LIFT!

LIFT High School

Glen Lake High Schoolers now also have the opportunity to participate in LIFT! High school programming at LIFT looks slightly different from our middle school program.

LIFT is teaming up with Tommy's First Mates, the student-led group focused on bringing awareness to and decreasing the stigma surrounding mental health. They do this through education and providing peer support, a mission that aligns closely with LIFT. Our new High School Program Coordinator, Annie Bielaczyc, meets with the group regularly to provide support and support their growth as peer leaders and listeners.

High school students can also look forward to regular evening and weekend LIFT events, which connect students from all of Leelanau County's public high schools. So far, we have already gone rock climbing at Elev8 Climbing Gym in Traverse City and are looking forward to other exciting activities, like go-karting at K1 Speed! LIFT staff and volunteers are excited to connect with even more students at Glen Lake Schools.



About Annie Bielaczyc



Annie grew up on Michigan's west coast, where she developed a passion for the arts and creative expression.

She earned a BFA from the University of Michigan and later an MA in Art Therapy at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Annie worked as an activity therapist in hospital settings for nearly a decade, and in 2021, she moved to a Christmas tree farm in Cedar. Annie enjoys working with (and advocating for) kids and teens and is excited to join the LIFT team!



Thank you for your extraordinary service helping Glen Lake children thrive!



Glen Lake celebrates Ginna Woessner's remarkable six years of dedicated service, honoring her impactful contributions and unwavering commitment to students, staff, and community as a valued school board member.

The month of January marks the observance of School Board Recognition Month and provides an opportunity to show our appreciation for these servant leaders. Glen Lake Schools is truly fortunate to have Cory McNitt, Rick Schanhals, Brooke Hazael-Massieux, Lisa Siddall, Leah Mosher, Travis Stein, Tom Bisbee (incoming), and Ginna Woessner (outgoing) to lead our school.

Their job is to establish a vision for the school's education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long, and the thanks few and far between. We encourage you to join our community and express gratitude to the individuals who serve our school community on the board of education.

Tom Bisbee, New Board Member

I'm excited to be the newest member of the Glen Lake Board of Education. I first started coming North in 2000 attending summer camp in Port Oneida. I moved here full time in 2011 after graduating college. My wife and I were married a few years later, and now have two young kids and a greying dog. My son is a first grader and loves attending football and basketball games (mostly to eat popcorn and run around with his friends). My daughter is in her second year of preschool and loves zipping around on her bike (and she'll proudly tell you she doesn't have training wheels).

I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with the existing board and continue their strong work. I'm also honored to represent all of you and would be happy to have a conversation. Please feel free to reach out to me at bisbee@mylakers.org.



Glen Lake Community Schools Renews Summer Tax Levy

In a recent move aimed at better aligning fiscal operations with educational needs, Glen Lake Community Schools transitioned from a winter tax levy to a summer tax levy. This strategic decision reflects the district's commitment to optimizing financial planning and resource allocation for the benefit of its students, faculty, and the community at large. The district renewed the summer tax levy at their December 9 regular board meeting.



Why the Change?

Historically, many school districts in Michigan operated on a winter tax levy cycle, where taxes are levied in the winter and revenue is received in the spring. For typical “in-formula” districts, this doesn’t create a financial issue as they rely on payments from the state that are spread evenly throughout the year. However, for “out-of-formula” districts like Glen Lake that receive very little state funding, this cycle often leads to financial challenges, as it does not coincide with the district’s primary operational period. By shifting to a summer tax levy, Glen Lake Community Schools now collects operating taxes primarily July through September, more closely aligning revenue inflows with the actual periods of expenditure and the schools fiscal year of July 1–June 30. All the other school districts in Leelanau County, as well as many districts throughout the state, especially out-of-formula ones, are on a summer tax levy.

Impact on Taxpayers

For non-homestead taxpayers within the Glen Lake district, this transition means a change in the timing of property tax payments. Instead of paying taxes in the winter, taxpayers will now see their tax bills issued in the summer months. This adjustment aims to streamline financial planning for both the district and taxpayers, ensuring that funds are available when needed most—during the school year when educational programs, staffing, and facility maintenance are in full swing. As a reminder, school operating millages are only levied on non-principal residence exemption (non-PRE) parcels, and Glen Lake Schools operating levy is capped at 15.0696 mills, as opposed to the maximum 18 mills that most school districts can levy. Local residents may see a change in the timing of their ISD taxes levied by Northwest Education Services, as they typically collect during the same period as the local districts in each township. If ISD taxes were levied on the summer tax bill in your township, they should not be on the current winter tax bill.

Benefits of Summer Tax Levy

Improved Cash Flow Management: The summer tax levy allows Glen Lake Community Schools to manage cash flow more efficiently. Funds collected during the summer can be used immediately to support ongoing educational initiatives and operational expenses. The district will no longer have to rely on financial reserves to fund operations through the fall and early winter, instead shifting those resources to address additional programming and capital needs. The shift to a summer tax levy allowed the district to immediately allocate \$3.5 million of reserves to begin the boiler replacement project, reducing the asking amount for a voted bond.



Glen Lake Community Schools

3375 W. Burdickville Rd.
Maple City, MI 49664
glenlakeschools.org

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRAVERSE CITY, MI
PERMIT #568



ECRWSS
Postal Patron

Newsletter design is by Deb Freed,
Information Specialist, Leelanau
County School Consortium. This
newsletter is a service of Northwest
Education Services to Glen Lake
Community Schools.



GLEN LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Board of Education
minutes are available
on the school website.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tom Bisbee
Brooke Hazael-Massieux
Cory McNitt
Leah Mosher
Rick Schanhals
Lisa Siddall
Travis Stein

ADMINISTRATION 231-334-3061

Jason Misner, Superintendent
Jaime Smith, High School Principal
Dina Rocheleau, Middle School Principal
Ryan Schrock, Elementary Principal
Ben Papes, Director of Finance
Rachel Stein, Athletic Director

Glen Lake School

Foundation:

Removing barriers to learning

* We are pleased to have been
able to make our second 2024
contribution to the Glen Lake
Community Schools Student
Assistance Fund.

* The Foundation website and more
information about scholarships,
donations and our annual
fundraising event will be
available soon.

The Glen Lake School Foundation is a 501(c)3.
Tax deductible contributions can be made
by sending a check to Glen Lake School
Foundation, 3375 W. Burdickville Rd,
Maple City, MI 49664

GLEN LAKE SCHOOL STORE

WWW.STORE.MYLAKERS.ORG

