



The Berry Bulletin

January 2026
Vol. 2

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MATT JONES

Happy New Year! As we begin 2026, I want to thank all of our alumni and community supporters for staying connected and helping strengthen the Berry legacy. We are entering an exciting season as we prepare for Felix the Cat's 100th birthday and Logansport High School's 155th anniversary, with celebrations beginning on February 27, 2026, at the home basketball game and continuing with our inaugural Alumni Gala the following evening. We hope you'll join us for this special alumni weekend. You'll find more details throughout this newsletter.

I'm also proud to share that we received a record 27 applications for our Teacher Grant initiative and were able to award fifteen grants. Over the past four years, we have now awarded more than \$25,000 in teacher and staff grants—support made possible by the generosity of our alumni and supporters.

Our "Always a Berry" Brick Project continues to grow as more alumni choose to leave a lasting legacy at the Berry Bowl entrance. It's a meaningful way to honor your time at LHS while supporting future generations of Berries. For more information or to order your brick, [click here](#).

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us celebrate the past, connect the present, and build the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at jonesm@lcsc.k12.in.us.

Go Berries,

Matt Jones
Executive Director
Alumni Association, '91



CELEBRATING THE PAST.
CONNECTING THE PRESENT.
BUILDING THE FUTURE.

Vision

To connect and support all who are passionate about Logansport Community Schools.

Mission

To build a lifelong global Berry network focused on tradition, communication, education, and development of the Logansport Community School Corporation.

SAVE THE DATES

February 27, 2026 Felix's Birthday

Felix turns 100 in 2026 as the oldest high school mascot in Indiana, and we're beginning the celebration on Friday, February 27, at the home game vs. Benton Central. Join us for a fun, nostalgic evening as we kick off a special alumni weekend, highlighted by the Alumni Gala the next night.

February 28, 2026 Alumni Gala

Join us at the inaugural Alumni Gala as we celebrate Felix the Cat's 100th birthday and Logansport High School's 155th anniversary on February 28, 2026, from 6:00–10:00 PM at the Vibrant Event Center.

More details can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

The Logansport High School Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
EIN #84-3804235

Teacher Grants

Alumni Association Presents 2025 Teacher Grants

The Logansport High School Alumni Association proudly recognized **15 outstanding educators as recipients of its 2025 Alumni Association Teacher Grants, awarding a total of \$6,510** to support innovative classroom projects and meaningful student learning across the corporation.



The recipients were honored during halftime of the varsity basketball game on December 12, 2025, in the Berry Bowl. Each educator was recognized not only for their individual projects, but for the vital role they play in shaping student experiences every day.

Supporting educators and students lies at the heart of the Alumni Association's mission. Through programs like the Teacher Grants, alumni generosity is transformed into direct, tangible impact inside today's classrooms.

This year's grant cycle reflected that impact, with 27 applications submitted from educators across multiple schools—demonstrating both the strength of our educators and the value of alumni support.

"These grants are made possible through the generous support of our alumni, donors, and community partners," said Matt Jones, Executive Director of the Alumni Association. "It's especially meaningful to see alumni support come full circle by directly impacting today's teachers and students."

The next Alumni Association Teacher Grant application cycle will open in October 2026.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

\$665 Erin Hamm, Fairview
\$500 Karina Fauble, Fairview
\$500 Yi-Chun LeFaure, LHS
\$500 Karin Combs, LHS
\$500 Beth Myers, The Academy
\$500 Tracy Wylie, The Academy
\$500 Amanda McKinzie, Landis
\$500 Jennifer Rosenberger, Landis
\$500 Jenni Fishburn, CCC
\$420 Angie Huskey, Landis
\$400 Ann Easter, LIS
\$300 Chunmei Guan, LHS
\$275 Rebekka Smith-Pine, LIS
\$275 Haley Rose, Berry Preschool
\$175 Tyler Gellinger, LIS

[Full grant details may be found here.](#)



Alumni Spotlight



DR. NATALIE EVANS '89

Natalie Evans, MD, has built an impressive career in vascular medicine while reflecting the Berry values of academic excellence, leadership, and service.



At Logansport High School, Dr. Evans was involved in the **swim team, Academic Decathlon, Spell Bowl, Student Council, and Sub Debs**, demonstrating a well-rounded commitment to both academics and student leadership.

After graduating in 1989, she earned her undergraduate degree from **Western Kentucky University**. She worked as a copy editor for nearly a decade before going on to earn her medical degree from **Drexel University College of Medicine**. She completed her internal medicine residency and vascular medicine fellowship at **Northwestern University**. She later spent eight years at **Cleveland Clinic** in leadership roles within vascular laboratories, anticoagulation services, and quality and patient safety.

Today, Dr. Evans serves as a **vascular medicine physician and co-medical director for the non-invasive vascular laboratory at University Hospitals Cleveland** and is an **assistant professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine**.

She specializes in the medical management of peripheral artery disease, venous thromboembolism, and hypercoagulable disorders. She is a **fellow of the Society for Vascular Medicine and a fellow of the American Heart Association**, where she helped draft the **Peripheral Artery Disease National Action Plan**, a roadmap for reducing the burden of this serious but often under-recognized illness.

Dr. Evans is married to fellow LHS grad **Jerry "JD" Busser '90**. We are proud to celebrate her as an outstanding example of the impact alumni continue to make.

Once a Berry—always a Berry.



REUNIONS

Summer, 2026- Class of 2006

Updates are posted in the [Class Facebook Group](#), or you can email Andy Muehlhausen at andymule@gmail.com.

June 27, 2026- Class of 1966

Details: Beth Perrone Schwanke — eamartin1@comcast.net or [here](#).

August 15, 2026- Class of 1971

Details: Sheila Bruck Jackson at smj53dogs@yahoo.com or [here](#).

September 26, 2026- Class of 1976

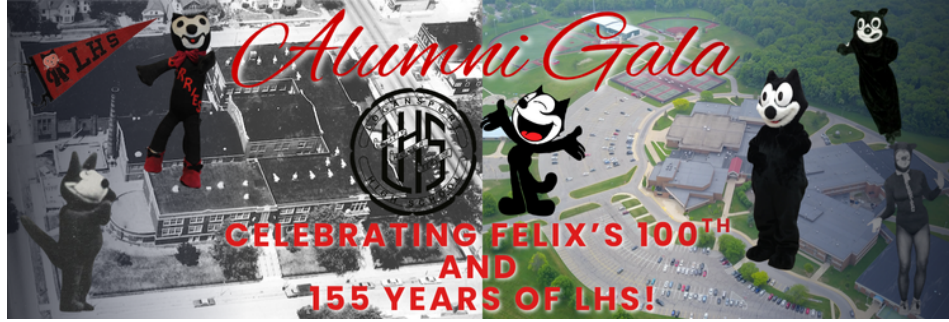
Details: **Michele Long at 574-721-6992** or the [Class Facebook Group](#).



In 2023, the LHS Library was transformed into the Logansport Savings Bank (LSB) Student Union through our corporate sponsorship program, complementing the Berry Bean Coffee Shop. Together, these spaces have become vibrant hubs of student activity, creating a college-like atmosphere that encourages creativity, collaboration, and connection.

The Berry Bean has become a popular gathering place, offering an ever-expanding menu tailored to student and staff tastes. The LSB Student Union supports a wide range of learning experiences—from independent study to collaborative group projects—and also serves as a welcoming space for student clubs to meet and connect. Increased engagement has followed, supported by expanded book collections and a growing book club. [Take a virtual tour here!](#)

Alumni Gala



Join us for an unforgettable evening on **Saturday, February 28, 2026**, at the inaugural Logansport High School Alumni Gala, celebrating **Felix the Cat's 100th birthday** and **155 years of Logansport High School** pride.

Reconnect with fellow Berries and friends as we honor our shared history and invest in the future of LCSC. The evening will feature dinner, a silent auction, and live entertainment, including LHS alumni jazz, Felix & Fingers Dueling Pianos, and a special appearance by Felix the Cat artist and musician Don Oriolo, who last joined us for the 2016 celebration.

Sponsorship tables for eight are still available, and \$50 General Admission tickets are now on sale.

Gather your classmates, friends, alumni groups, or business partners and reserve a table for this historic celebration. Sponsorship tables offer a shared experience with added perks while supporting Alumni Association programs that benefit LCSC students, staff, and the entire Berry community. General Admission tickets are available for alumni who want to join the celebration without purchasing a full table.

WHY WE CELEBRATE

We celebrate our past, connect the present, and build the future of LCSC. Rooted in rich traditions and strong alumni connections, the Alumni Gala brings generations together while supporting meaningful impact. Through alumni donations and events like the Alumni Gala, we've invested over \$25,000 in classroom grants, student organizations, and special projects that make a lasting difference.

[Click here to register today!](#)

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Location: Vibrant Event Center –
Logansport, Indiana

Time: 6 PM – Reception

Enjoy a festive start to the evening with light hors d'oeuvres and alumni jazz.

7 PM – Dinner, Music, and Program

Sponsorship Table Options

Felix Legacy Sponsor – \$3,000

Leave your mark on a century of Felix history as a premier Gala sponsor.

Includes:

- Reserved table for 8 guests in premium placement
- Berry "Hometown Proud" T-shirt for each guest
- Program recognition
- Logo/name on event signage, slideshow, and printed program
- Verbal recognition by the MC during the program
- Year-long listing on the Alumni Association website's Sponsors Page
- Each guest receives a brick (\$100 value) on the future Always A Berry Wall outside the historic Berry Bowl

Berry Pride Sponsor – \$1,500

Honor the past. Support today's Berries.

Includes:

- Reserved table for 8 guests
- Berry "Hometown Proud" T-shirt for each guest
- Preferred seating
- Program recognition
- Logo/name on table signage
- Recognition in the event slideshow
- Yearlong listing on the Alumni Association website's Sponsors Page

Red and Black Table – \$1,000

Celebrate in true Berry style with this spirited table sponsorship!

Includes:

- Reserved table for 8 guests
- Berry "Hometown Proud" T-shirt for each guest
- Preferred seating
- Program recognition
- Name on table signage

For full details on sponsorship perks, tables, tickets, and registration, visit the [Gala website.](#)

Attire: Senior cords, team jerseys, Berry gear, cocktail, or semi-formal — show your Berry pride and come ready to celebrate!



Felix Files

History Lesson

TIMELINE

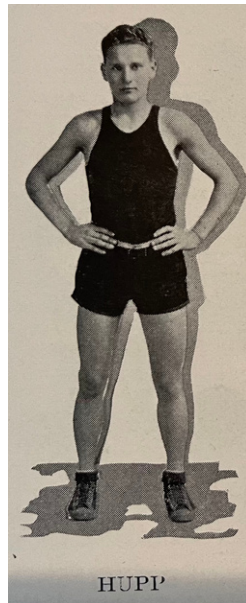
The Story Behind How Felix Became Our Mascot

There are a few accounts of how Felix the Cat became Logansport High School's mascot, but all trace back to 1926. According to the 1941 Tattler, "In 1926, Coach Cliff Wells presented a little red and black cat to Raymond "Curly" Hupp. Immediately, this stuffed feline was christened, Felix."



For several weeks, Felix was held captive in a gym locker. But one evening, when an important game was going badly, Felix was taken from the locker and placed in the center of the floor. The Berries were victorious, and thus Felix became our mascot and the first 'official' basketball mascot in Indiana."

A more detailed recollection shared in 1996 by teammate Ralph "Red" Tucker places the moment on March 31, 1926, when Wells purchased a red-and-black Felix doll from a downtown shop while the team was headed to a postseason banquet at the Barnes Hotel. Felix joined the team that evening and made his first on-court appearance during the 1926-27 season. Over the years, several versions of Felix have existed, with original figures now preserved at the Cass County Historical Society, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, and the entrance of LHS.



Today, Felix lives on as a beloved live mascot—entertaining crowds, greeting children, and connecting generations of Berries. Nearly 100 years later, a stuffed cat introduced by Coach Cliff Wells and Curly Hupp continues to define Logansport pride.

Always a Berry. Always Felix.



1926- LHS Mascot

Curly Hupp, team captain in 1926-27, took Felix out of his locker when the Berries were down at halftime and placed Felix on the floor to inspire his teammates; the Berries rallied to win, and Felix has served as our mascot ever since.



1930- Felix Returned

In 1930, Felix was "swiped" by someone from Peru during the regional tournament, causing quite a stir in Logansport. A Peru school official later returned him to player Bus Davis on the street, admitting it was all in fun – and Felix was happily back home. One of the few times Felix was "swiped" over the years.



1986- Hall of Fame

Felix IV was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in New Castle in 1986 with the distinction of being Indiana's first official high school mascot.



2016- 90th Birthday

Don Oriolo – Felix the Cat artist and son of Joe Oriolo, who was Otto Messmer's protégé – visited Logansport in 2016 to help celebrate Felix's 90th birthday, strengthening the school's historic connection to the character's creators.

1926- Felix Appears

On March 31, 1926, Coach Cliff Wells and his players spotted a small red-and-black Felix the Cat doll in a downtown shop window on their way to the team's postseason banquet. Wells bought it on the spot, and that simple purchase became the beginning of Felix's century-long legacy as the mascot of Logansport High School.



1926-1927 Season

Felix begins regularly appearing on the court, often carried out by cheerleader Henry "Hank" Muckenfuss.

Felix The Cat Is Back Home

Felix is back in Logansport. Felix is the Logansport high school mascot, the stuffed cat that sits in the center of the floor while the basketball boys practice before their games. Somebody from Peru swiped our cat during the regional tournament in March and there was waiting and gnashing of teeth. Felix was returned to his old home last night by a Peru school official, who, unable to find a local official to make proper return of the mascot, turned it over to Bus Davis, one of the players whom he met on the street here. The Peru school ~~man~~ had relieved Felix from one of his boys. It was all in fun anyway and everybody is happy.

Source: The Logansport Press- (archived edition), 1930

1984- Live Felix

Gretchen Smith portrayed the first "live" Felix in the 1980s. The debut in 1984 may be watched [here](#).



1996- 70th Birthday

Candice Layman proudly led the way as Felix, bringing the beloved mascot to life for the milestone celebration, joined by special guest appearances from mascots of neighboring schools that added to the excitement and community spirit of the event.



Stay Connected

There are many ways to stay connected and continue celebrating Berry pride throughout the year. Follow the Logansport High School Alumni Association on social media for event updates, photos, and stories that highlight our shared history and ongoing impact.

Visit our website to learn more about upcoming events, alumni initiatives, sponsorship opportunities, reunions, and ways to support LHS. Our site is also home to important updates, historical features, and links to all Alumni Association programs.

We also encourage all alumni to sign up for our [360Alumni Hub](#), our central connection point for news and alumni communications. **Creating a free profile** helps us stay connected, share opportunities that matter to you, post jobs, and strengthen alumni connections across generations.

No matter where life has taken you, you'll always be a Berry. Thank you for staying connected and supporting the past, present, and future of LHS and LCSC.



Scan or visit to sign-up for free at
<https://logansportberries.360alumni.com>

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