



LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212



*The cast, technical crew and orchestra members of **The Little Mermaid** opened Leyden's theater season with this much-loved musical based on the Disney classic. The cast included middle school students – "the guppy chorus" – from the Leyden community.*



From the left: Marco Chaidez, Melissa Alaniz, Benjamin Velez, Jake Schwartz, Marilyn Fuentes, Alyssa Giullu, and AKA The Hague Brigade, pose for a photo in the picturesque region of Umbria, Italy. The students stopped in Italy for a few days on their way to the Global Student Leaders Summit on Human Rights at The Hague in the Netherlands. More than 1000 traveling and local students converged on The Hague to listen to speeches from activists for human rights, learn about Design Thinking, and formulate creative solutions to specific human rights issues.

Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hello Leyden Family,

In our last newsletter, I noted that the district would be undertaking strategic planning work over the summer. We brought together a diverse group of stakeholders representing our students, parents, support staff, teachers, school board, administration, and local business leaders. The goal was to set the best possible trajectory for District 212.

We decided to create a new mission statement that was simple yet powerful enough to encompass what we do at Leyden. In the end, we established the following mission statement:

Educate • Enrich • Empower | Students and Communities

This new mission statement includes our core function of providing a high quality education along with enriching experiences that meet individual needs, and empower people to make a difference in the world. The inclusion of "students and communities" demonstrates that we seek to educate, enrich, and empower not only students, but also staff, parents, and those in the communities we serve.

The group also considered the district's vision statement. The goal was to establish a vision statement that reflects the district's ability to be

flexible as we meet the needs of students who are living in a constantly changing world. We found the answer in the Board of Education's long-standing motto:

Doing What's Best for the Kids

As our students' needs evolve, we will adapt as a district and continue to provide a comprehensive education for our students. Our strategic planning team worked to identify common goals for use during the next few years. This will enable us to work together on those targets. In addition, we created three district goals:

1. **The District will develop confident problem-solvers through authentic and relevant experiences.**
2. **The District will promote increased parental involvement.**
3. **The District will enhance communication strategies and transparency for all stakeholders.**

We are excited about what we can accomplish with the district's mission and vision statements along with the goals we've set for our students and communities. Thanks again to all of the members of the strategic planning team.

With #leydenpride,
Nick Polyak



District 212 Is One of the Chicago Tribune Top 100 Workplaces

For the third consecutive year Leyden High School District 212 has been selected as one of The Chicago Tribune Top 100 Workplaces.

The list includes employers in diverse categories such as advertising and marketing, construction, education, financial services and insurance, healthcare, manufacturing, and real estate.

The Top Workplaces are determined solely on employee feedback. The employee survey is conducted by WorkplaceDynamics, LLP, a leading research firm that examines workplace environments. The company uses a short, anonymous survey to collect information from employees working in places like a hospital, school, corporation, or company.

The assessment measures Organizational Health through the following subtopics: Direction of the Organization, Execution of Initiatives, and Connections with

Employees. It also measures feelings about a person's job on the following subtopics: Work Expectations, Relationships with Management, and Pay and Benefits.

A few months ago, Leyden employees were asked to take an online survey that ultimately put the school district on The Chicago Tribune Top 100 Workplaces list. "It is rare for school districts to be nominated for this honor, and even rarer for them to be selected as a Top Workplace," says Superintendent Nick Polyak.

Social Studies Teacher is Newest Illinois State Senator



Tom Rooney

Tom Rooney, 48, West Leyden social studies teacher and former mayor of Rolling Meadows, was sworn in as a Republican state Senator on September 29. He represents the 27th Senate District that includes parts of Palatine, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows, and Inverness.

As of right now, Rooney plans to continue teaching at Leyden. "I'm a teacher at heart and I hope to keep teaching," says Rooney, who has been at Leyden for 21 years. "The school has been amazing. We're trying to work out a way to pull this off where I can continue teaching, and at the same time my students will benefit as well."

As for his priority as a state senator, Rooney says it is all about economics. "I'm going to beat the economics drum in Springfield just like I did in

Rolling Meadows. I hope that with my background I can bring a new perspective," says Rooney, who has been mayor for five years.

Rooney is married and the father of two grown sons. He and his wife Sue will remain in Rolling Meadows where he says he plans "to keep my eye on everything." He explains that as senator he will be representing essentially the same people, only at a higher level.

Rooney was selected to replace departing Senator Matt Murphy by Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno, and a committee of local GOP leaders. For Illinois' newest senator it is a goal come true. "I've wanted to be in the House or Senate since I was 17 years-old," he recalls. "It's a tremendous honor."

American Education Week November 14-18, 2016

Leyden's mission as a school district is to demonstrate the impact public education has on the lives of students, families, educators, and communities throughout America. In accordance with that goal, Leyden and school districts across the nation, will celebrate the National Education Association's 95th Annual American Education Week, November 14-18.

This year's theme is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility." As noted in the district's mission statement, Leyden adheres to that model by supporting "a community of lifelong learners, who prepare for global change, respect diversity, accept personal responsibility, and pursue a sense of fulfillment."

Mikkel Storaasli, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, says the district's rich and diverse curriculum meets the needs of each of student. "Our goal is to prepare students to be confident problem-

solvers, equipping them with the tools to excel in a constantly changing society," he says. "Our students hone skills in problem-solving, creativity, collaboration, and communication."

In addition to core subjects, Leyden offers students the opportunity to enrich their lives with co-curricular activities including a variety of clubs and organizations, athletics, visual and performing arts, and community service opportunities.

"Our mission is to make sure we educate, enrich, and empower our students. We encourage them to discover and explore their passion, and use that to advance their goals and ultimately success in life," Storaasli says.

It is a privilege and a responsibility to educate Leyden students, Superintendent Nick Polyak says. "Our role is to help our students succeed in reaching their academic and life-long goals. The combination of enthusiastic students, supportive families, and

"Our mission is to make sure we educate, enrich and empower our students. We encourage them to discover and explore their passion, and use that to advance their goals and ultimately success in life."

*Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mikkel Storaasli, Ed.D*

dedicated staff, make Leyden a place where students have the opportunity to reach their potential every day. Celebrating American Education Week is an appropriate way to honor all individuals who ensure that every student in the district receives a quality education," he says.

Eagles Dominate Blazers 34-19



Wide receiver Jalen Moore (#4) returns a kickoff for a significant gain.

The Eagles' September 23, 2016, homecoming game elevated spirit week to new heights with a score of 34-19 against the Addison Trail Blazers. The win ushered the Eagles into the lead position in the West Suburban Gold division with a 2-0 record, making it the only team without a WGS loss.

The victory also marked the 400th varsity football win in Leyden's celebrated 91-year history, rounding out the stats to 400 wins, 361 losses, and 25 tie games.

"I thought we played a complete football game," said varsity head coach Tom Cerasani. "We played extremely hard, executed well, and made the most of opportunities. I'm very proud of the way the kids played, and I hope this will be an indication of how we will finish the season."

West Takes the Trophy



East Leyden faculty football team



West Leyden faculty football team

It's a tradition. It's a rivalry. It's entertainment.

The Annual Faculty Football Game showcases the athleticism and competitive spirit of Leyden's teacher-athletes. And this year the game raised \$2,500 for a needy Leyden family.

Every year during homecoming spirit week, faculty members from each campus meet on the gridiron in pursuit of a victory that renders the coveted winner's trophy. This year West Leyden claimed the prize and some serious bragging rights with a decisive 44-21 win over East Leyden. Physical education teacher Stephanie Kuzmanic was informally dubbed MVP for scoring 21 points for West Leyden.

The competition was held on September 22, a temperate, early autumn evening on the football field at the West campus. While the players warmed-up students, staff, and community members watched from the bleachers, displaying posters and chanting slogans in support of their favorite players.

Given the enthusiasm the flag football game generates, there is a more meaningful side to the competition. Sponsored by students in Leyden's sports and entertainment marketing classes, the event is a hands-on learning exercise in finding a cause, marketing it and giving back to the community in the form of a fundraiser. The game raised \$2,500 through donations and the sale of food and T-shirts. All proceeds went

to a Leyden family in need of financial support.

"An event like the faculty football game gives students the opportunity to experience what goes into the planning and execution of a fundraising event including target market, promotion strategies, and public relations," says Sally Lakdawala, a sports and entertainment class teacher at East Leyden. "Students see first-hand their successes and also evaluate where they could improve. By opting to donate the proceeds to a Leyden family in need, the students have the motivation and drive to ensure a successful event. They know their efforts can directly impact a family in the community."

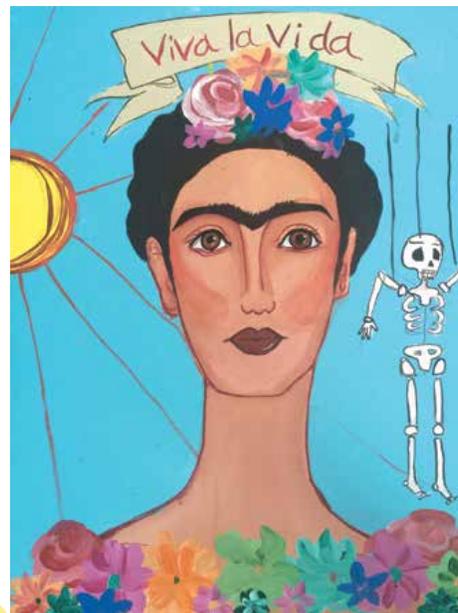
#leydenpride



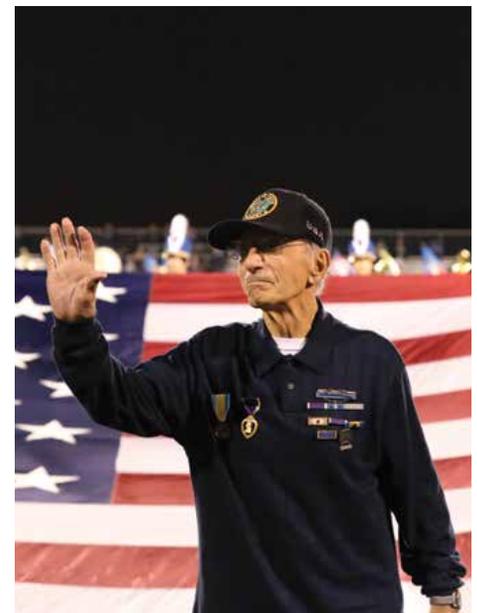
Students from the ecology and recycling clubs at both campuses participated in the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach program on September 17. The student volunteers cleared North Ave. beach of more than 65 pounds of debris that included every manner of plastic refuse, paper wrappers, and cigarettes.



Math teacher Aysha Shedbalkar spent the summer in Thessaloniki, Greece, assisting Syrian refugees. A volunteer with Team Humanity and Salaam Cultural Museum, she provided refugees with food and clothing, set up a school, taught math and English, and provided homeless immigrants with food and other essentials. She is pictured with Sulaiman, the baby of Syrian refugees.



Viva la Vida by Suzette Ruvalcaba. Suzette Ruvalcaba, a District 212 Transition Center participant and a Triton College student, exhibited 20 of her paintings at the Northlake Public Library during National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated in October. Ruvalcaba's work is influenced by Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, Japanese film director Hayao Miyazaki, and British street artist Banksy.



Thomas Alioto, a Home Town Hero honoree, was recognized at the varsity football homecoming game. A decorated Korean War Veteran, he served in the United States Army, 2nd Division, Baker Company. Deployed to Korea in 1952, he served on the front lines as corporal and squad leader until he was injured by enemy mortar fire. Alioto was awarded the Purple Heart for his service.

Wall of Fame Inductees Agree: Pursue Your Passion



Wall of Fame coordinator Janine Asmus (left) with inductees Cezary Podkul and Cheryl Chavarrie-Francl at the Eagles homecoming game. The newly inducted alumni were introduced to the community during half-time festivities.

This September the district hosted the 26th Alumni Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony, an event that honored inductees Cheryl Chavarrie Francl, Class of 1986, and Cezary Podkul, Class of 2002. This long-standing program recognizes Leyden graduates who have achieved outstanding recognition in their respective field and are role models for students. The honorees, both East Leyden graduates, spoke to students at the East and West campuses, sharing their Leyden experiences and memories.



Attorney Cheryl Chavarrie-Francl advised students to find their passion through self-discovery and then pursue it. Chavarrie-Francl is senior counsel for United Airlines.

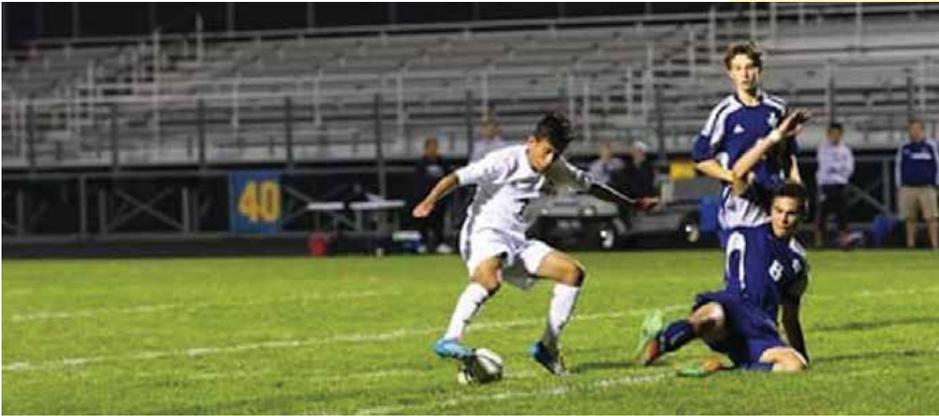


Cezary Podkul addressed guests at the Wall of Fame induction ceremony luncheon. Podkul is a finance reporter with ProPublica, an independent, online newsroom.

Cheryl Chavarrie Francl is senior counsel for United Airlines where she has been employed as an attorney for 18 years. Her area of expertise is commercial transactions, including United Express relationships, technology and marketing procurements with a focus on data privacy law and policy compliance. Francl, who was valedictorian of her class, recalled that she began high school as “a shy, bashful perfectionist” who needed to build self-confidence and shed the unrealistic demands she put on herself. With guidance from her teachers and coaches, Francl says she evolved into a confident, well-rounded student involved in academic, athletic, and co-curricular activities. She noted she has fond memories of high school and that Leyden made a difference in her life. She offered this advice to students: “Get involved in school and participate in co-curricular activities so you learn to be comfortable with people. Be self-confident, believe in yourself, never give up, take charge of your life, and always strive to do your best. Find your passion through self-discovery. What matters most to you? What are you good at? What do you enjoy doing? Passion fuels purpose. If your passion is your focus, you will realize your dreams.”

Cezary Podkul is a finance reporter for ProPublica, an independent, non-profit online newsroom. Before working for the online publication, he was a data journalist for Reuters, an international news agency headquartered in England. An investigative reporter, he works to expose and “make right” inequalities that have an impact on society. He advised students to “expect the unexpected” and seize the opportunities offered at Leyden. “I moved here from Poland at the age of nine. I never really felt like I fit in. I assumed because I came from blue collar roots and didn’t attend New Trier or Barrington high school that I didn’t have the same opportunities to achieve as much as those students. Absolutely wrong. Leyden students can accomplish as much as students from any other school. To do that there are few things you need to know: Be confident, become an active participant in your life, follow your passion. Take the advice of your teachers and coaches, take advantage of the diverse course offerings at Leyden, participate in school activities and build a sense of community. The best advice I can give you is to find your passion early and follow it. You will be happier doing what you love to do.”

Soccer Highlights



Angel Lopez, a senior at West Leyden, was selected as an All State player by the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association (IHSSCA). Lopez, who is an attacking center midfielder, has scored 20 goals and 24 assists during his three years as a varsity starter.



Jim Rosetti, assistant coach of the boys varsity soccer team, was recently honored as Assistant Coach of the Year by the Illinois High School Association, Region 2. Rosetti was nominated by varsity head coach Mark Valintis.

Fall/Winter Calendar 2016

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
November		
10	Veteran's Day Music Concert West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
11	Fall Play in English - <i>The Story of a Staircase</i> East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
12	Fall Play in English - <i>The Story of a Staircase</i> Spanish - <i>Historia de una escalera</i> East Leyden Auditorium	3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
13	Fall Play in Spanish - <i>Historia de una escalera</i> East Leyden Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
14 - 18	American Education Week	
16	Fall Sports Awards East Leyden Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
18	East Fashion Show East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
23	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School	
24	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School	
25	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School	
December		
2	Yuletide Dinner East Leyden Little Theater	7:00 p.m.
3	Yuletide Dinner East Leyden Little Theater	7:00 p.m.
4	Yuletide Dinner East Leyden Little Theater	4:00 p.m.
5	Art Show Artists' Reception East Leyden Little Theater West Leyden Eagle's Wing	6:00 p.m.
7	Music of the Holidays Concert West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
15	Board of Education Meeting	8:00 p.m.
17	Student Directed Holiday Play <i>Santa's Cookie Problem</i> East Leyden Auditorium	2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
18	Student Directed Holiday Play <i>Santa's Cookie Problem</i> East Leyden Auditorium	2:00 p.m.
22	End of Semester	
23	Winter Break - No School	
January		
9	Classes Resume	
16	Martin Luther King Day - No School	
17	Taste of East East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
January cont.		
18	Taste of West West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
19	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
26	Talent Show East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
27	Talent Show East Leyden Auditorium	4:00 p.m.
February		
1	Ask The Expert Day	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
9	Orchesis East Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
10	Orchesis East Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
11	Orchesis East Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
17	Turnabout Dance West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
20	Presidents' Day - No School	
23	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
March		
3	Winter Play - <i>A Night of One Acts</i> West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
4	Winter Play - <i>A Night of One Acts</i> West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
6	Casimir Pulaski Day - No School	
8	Winter Sports Awards Night East Leyden Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
10	West Fashion Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
11	Winter Choral Festival TO BE DETERMINED	3:00 p.m.
13	Jazz Night West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
15	Winter Instrumental Concert East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
16	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
17	IHSA Group Interpretation - <i>Code Name Verity</i> Contest Play Presentation - <i>They came from Mars...</i> East Leyden Little Theater	7:00 p.m.
20	US Navy Band Concert West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
27 - 31	Spring Break - No School	



Leyden High School District 212
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

District Seeks Loyal Eagle Award Nominations

District 212 is currently seeking nominations for the Loyal Eagle Award. Established several years ago, the award recognizes people who have made a significant contribution to District 212.

Please forward the nominee's name and pertinent information to Assistant Superintendent Beth Concannon at bconcannon@leyden212.org; or mail the information

to East Leyden High School, 3400 Rose Street, Franklin Park. Give a brief explanation as to why the nominee is deserving of the recognition, and include the contributions that person has made to Leyden. The deadline for submissions is December 22, 2016. Please note that staff members aren't eligible.

For more information, call 847-451-3021.

Leyden District 212 Board of Education Board of Education meetings are in the East Campus Board Room.



Front Row: Mr. James A. Lima, Secretary; Mr. Gregory T. Ignoffo, President; Mrs. Gloria Murawska, Vice President
Back Row: Ms. Noelle Lowther, Mrs. Lisa Anthony, Mr. Joseph Trevino, Mrs. Sandra Boehm, Mr. Jack Tobin, Ms. Vanessa Gallegos

Leyden High School District 212 is an equal opportunity institution, committed to compliance with all applicable state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This includes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, order of protection status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, homelessness and marital/parental status, including pregnancy.

As required by S.B. 898, you may go to Leyden's website to view our budget at: www.leyden212.org

State law requires that we inform you of the dates when our lawn and garden areas will be fertilized. The dates to fertilize and weed and feed will be during the following week:

March 27, 2017 - April 7, 2017 Weed and Feed

East Campus
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

West Campus
1000 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164

Our thanks to Pete Skylakos for generously sharing his sports photos with us.