

LICKING VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# THE VALLEY VIEW

Every adult helping every child learn and grow every day.

## Helping our kids climb higher

School board members are ordinary people who have an extraordinary dedication to our public schools. It is time we thanked them for their untiring efforts.

Too often we forget about the personal sacrifices school board members routinely make.

Too often we forget about the important role school board members play in assuring local control over our public schools, control that is in the hands of people we know ... people who are our neighbors.

Too often we forget that, in the tradition of a representative democracy, school board members are our connection to influencing how our public schools are governed.

Too often we are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all the details that went into any given decision.

Too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized and unrewarded.

We can begin to correct these oversights this January, which is School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to show our appreciation and to begin to better understand how school board members work together to provide leadership for our schools.

The school board works closely with parents, education professionals and community members to create the educational vision we want for our students. It then formulates goals, defines results and sets the course for an adequate and equitable educational program for all students.

The school board is accountable to the public. It is responsible for assuring the public that the money allocated to the public schools is providing a good return on the investment. Thus, the board oversees regular assessment of the district's students, staff and programs.

The school board also is a strong advocate for public schools and is responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public's expectations to the district.

In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools. Make a special effort to tell each school board member his or her hard work has been noticed and is very much appreciated.

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### Board Members 2010

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## Chinese Administrator

LV Superintendent David Hile has been selected to participate in the **China Exchange Initiative** sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA) during the 2009-10 school year. Mr. Hile applied to participate in this exciting administrator exchange program in June 2009 and was subsequently notified that his application was one of only 10 selected for the State of Ohio for this inaugural Chinese Exchange Initiative to occur in the state. As a result, a guest administrator from China spent a week in our district from November 13 – November 20, 2009. Mr. Hile will go to China for two weeks in April 2010 to study the Chinese education system.

Below is a summary of feedback from principals from Hubei (HB-OH) that participated in the November exchange:

### Things/experiences most impressed:

Abundant resources per person  
 Care for and attention to every kind of student, including kids from families who are below the poverty line and kids with disabilities  
 Skill and hands-on training for students  
 High schools offer both college and career preparation to students  
 Courses offered to students are practical  
 Confidence and pride American students have  
 Everyone does what he/she likes  
 American education is first-class. Students' creativity and hands-on skills are valued  
 American government and the society value education; schools receive a lot of funding so students have better facilities and resources  
 American schools have a lot of space, including stadiums, and big sports fields  
 Americans admire heroes  
 American people are polite and well-mannered  
 Schools have very good facilities; students have a high level of hands-on abilities  
 The superintendent, the principal, and the teachers are warm, helpful and very committed to their work

### Things not known before the trip:

Students are so happy; teachers work really hard; principals/superintendents are very proud of their work  
 Special education is popular and valued  
 It is not just a slogan when Americans say "No Child Left Behind". They have good plans and manners of implementation  
 Professional guidance provided for students' career planning  
 High school students can take college courses  
 Americans actually value families

### Things unexpected:

Many elective course offerings, such as sign language, jewelry design, etc  
 American education trains students for what the society will need of them  
 Americans care more about their own interests when they choose their career  
 Important decisions related to schools are made by school boards

### Things learned that can benefit future work:

Strengthen the relationship with local communities  
 Offer more after-school activities  
 Try to offer real electives  
 Pay attention to the training of students' hands-on skills and the building of their characters  
 Appeal to the government to urge that Chinese education focus more on students' skills. Appeal to society for financial support  
 Collaborate at different levels  
 Promote whole-child development

### Plans for future exchange:

Develop teacher and student exchange programs  
 Learn about curriculum, professional development and teacher evaluation.

### Suggestions to the future programming:

To have bilingual (English and Chinese) written itinerary  
 To have hand-outs  
 To have interpreters throughout  
 More information on curriculum, and school management

**SPRING BREAK**  
**MARCH 29 - APRIL 2**

## JANUARY FUN FACTS

### Did You Know?

How many days in a millennium? The calendar system that was in use during a particular millennium determines the actual number of days that elapse during the time span.

- The First Millennium (1-1000 AD) consisted of 365,250 days.
- The second Millennium (1001-2000 AD) consisted of 365,237 days.
- Our current Millennium (2001-3000 AD) will consist of 365,242 days.

## LV District Leadership Planning

This past November, just before Thanksgiving, Superintendent David Hile sent an open letter to all Licking Valley Staff outlining his views on Ohio's school accountability system, the federal No Child Left Behind legislation and Licking Valley's future leadership planning. Below is an excerpt from that letter. You can read the entire letter on our district website at [https://www.edline.net/pages/Licking\\_Valley\\_Local\\_SD](https://www.edline.net/pages/Licking_Valley_Local_SD) in the Superintendent's Corner located under the Contents heading on the right side of the page. Mr. Hile encourages all LV stakeholders to read the letter and address any questions or comments to him via email at : [hiled@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us](mailto:hiled@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us).

November 23, 2009

### A Letter to LV Staff

Dear Staff Member:

If you were with us last year, you know that we changed our vision statement to align directly with our purpose. We determined that the purpose of the Licking Valley Local Schools is every adult helping every child learn and grow every day. But establishing a vision statement, when you are clear on the purpose of your organization, is the easy part. The challenge is constantly keeping that vision in focus and aligning all of our decisions and actions to that vision, and ensuring that all of us are doing work we believe contributes to its ultimate attainment. The question, then, is how do we set and maintain that focus? This is something for which I feel great responsibility. I have a little alter ego that sits on my shoulder and constantly asks me, "What are you doing to pursue the vision?" and "Does that action/decision align to our vision?" (I know, alter ego can also mean schizophrenia). But because I believe establishing a vision that aligns with our core purpose, relentlessly pursuing that vision and helping everyone in the district connect to it is fundamental to effective leadership, I feel a great onus to make those things happen effectively, and, thus, I have spent a great deal of time researching and thinking about how to make it happen effectively at LV, and our district administrators have participated in that research and thinking over the past two-plus years.

In May 2010, our five-year strategic plan will expire; a plan that many of us worked hard to develop and implement, and one that served us well over that time and helped the district move forward in a positive direction. But it is again time for us to take stock of where we are and where we want to go, working backwards from our vision of every adult helping every child learn and grow every day to build a leadership plan that will get us there. My one prerequisite for this new plan is that it has a laser-like focus on "helping every child learn and grow every day" and our reading, research and collective experiences will be instructive here.

## LEADER ALERT

The Licking Valley School District implemented the Leader Alert system in 2008 to further help communicate to staff and parents information about any situation that may arise. This is a new product that allows Licking Valley Schools to automatically contact groups of staff and parents via phone and/or email in the event that a message of some type needs to be relayed.

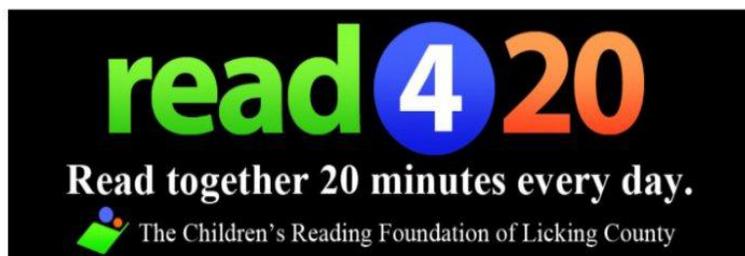
***This includes snow days, early releases, and any emergencies that might occur in our schools.***

Here's how it works: We have taken the information parents have provided us and created a contact list for every student in the district that contains a parent phone number, parent cell phone number, and email address. We have loaded this data into the Leader Alert system which enables the district to send messages as needed. When the message is sent, your phone will ring, and once you answer and say hello you'll hear a recorded

message from Superintendent Hile. You'll be asked after the message is completed to press 1 on your phone to acknowledge the call. In addition, you should receive an email message. You don't need to reply to the email. That's all there is to it. We will use this system as needed to keep our parents notified, AND we'll be using the system soon to make daily calls to parents of students that are unexcused from school as a reminder that your student was not in school and that an excuse is needed.



**Please note: If you receive a message in error, or you are not receiving the messages, please be sure to contact the school office to update your student's contact information.**



We're are on the web: [www.edline.net/pages/licking\\_valley\\_local\\_sd](http://www.edline.net/pages/licking_valley_local_sd)

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## JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>18</b> NO SCHOOL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	<b>19</b> G Tri BK NC LV FFA Alumni, Inc 7:30 LV Music Boosters 7:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> MS/JV/V WR @ Cols. Acad.	<b>22</b> BBK Tri Lakewood H	<b>23</b> GBK Tri Heath H BBK JV/V Big Walnut VWR @ Jon Alder Inv. MS WR @ Philo Inv.
<b>24</b> Celebrity Read a Book Week	<b>25</b> Financial Task Force 7:00 LV Athletic Boosters 7:00	<b>26</b> BBK Tri Granville H	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> V/JV/MS WR - LV, Granville, Whitehall H	<b>29</b> GBK JV/V Whitehall H	<b>30</b> V WR Holmes Inv. GBK JV/V Bishop Rosecrans H BBK Tri @ Newark

## FEBRUARY 2010

	<b>1</b> FR BBK Bxly H	<b>2</b> GBK @ Cols. Acad.	<b>3</b> FRGBK @ Bxly	<b>4</b> V/JV/MS WR @ Heath	<b>5</b> BBK Tri Heath H	<b>6</b> V WR River Valley Inv. GBK @ Bxly
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> GBK @ LH LV BOARD OF EDUCATION 6:00	<b>9</b> MS P/T Confs PES P/T Confs	<b>10</b> FR BBK Cols. Acad	<b>11</b> MS P/T Confs PES/IES P/T Confs JV/V/MS WR NC H	<b>12</b> GBK Lakewood NO SCHOOL LINCOLN'S B-DAY	<b>13</b> BBK Cols. Acad. H
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> NO SCHOOL PRESIDENTS' DAY	<b>16</b> BBK Bxly LV FFA Alumni, Inc LV Music Boosters IES P/T Confs	<b>17</b> ASH WEDNESDAY	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> BBK @ Lakewood	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> LV Athletic Boosters 7:00 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> NO SCHOOL WAIVER DAY	<b>27</b>