Vote Tuesday, May 20
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Liverpool High School Gym

What’s Inside....

Message from the Board President  Pg. 2
Three Part Budget Summary       Pgs. 3-4
Budget Revenue                  Pg. 5
Bus Purchase Proposition        Pg. 5
Board of Education Candidates   Pgs. 6-8
Polling Place & Voting Information  Pg. 9
Property Tax Exemption Info     Pg. 9
A Message from The Board President

It is the Board’s responsibility to provide resources for educational programs and to provide enrichment opportunities that encourage our 7,364 students to achieve academic and personal excellence. We must advocate for our students, and also maintain fiscal responsibility to the members of the Liverpool community in difficult financial times. To this end the Board has:

- Hired a new superintendent familiar with our District’s needs and strengths.
- Focused on long term planning, creating goals that guide fiscal and academic decisions.
- Supported new curriculum opportunities for science (K-6), writing (K-6) and technology (K-12).
- Approved a redistricting plan for elementary and middle schools with implementation in 2014 and 2015.
- Created community groups that work in partnership with the District for the implementation of long term goals and enhanced communication (Facilities Planning Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Partners in Education Committee, Redistricting Committee).
- Composed a Standardized Testing Resolution that was sent to local, regional and state politicians.
- Received voter support for the Phase Two Capital Project, which will provide more efficient safety and security measures in buildings and make necessary renovations to the Liverpool High School roof and Chestnut Hill Complex.

Contrary to previous years, the 2014-2015 Budget does not cut programs, or FTEs (full-time teacher equivalents), or positions. By thinking outside the box and re-allocating resources, the Budget Advisory Group has presented the Board and community with a budget proposal that provides our students with the education they deserve, while staying within the limitations of the New York State Tax Cap. The Tax Cap formula takes into account the prior year’s tax levy, the tax base growth factor, the previous year’s exemptions, receivables from the previous year’s PILOTs, (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) and an allowable growth factor which is the lesser of two numbers - the CPI (Consumer Price Index) or 2 percent.

Adjustments for student enrollment, contractual obligations, increased health care costs, unfunded mandates and creative use of existing resources have all been factored into the calculations for the 2014-2015 Budget. With the exemptions for 2014-2015 and a capital levy of $2,697,847 our district has a maximum allowable levy of 2.14 percent. **Impact on the average homeowner is an increase of approximately $0.56 per $1000 (on a fully assessed home).**

The Board continues to fight to maintain the quality educational programs and services you have come to expect for our Liverpool students. We also continue to advocate for the elimination of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) which has crippled so many districts across New York State and deprived Liverpool of more than $43,635,744 in state aid that it deserves.

This edition of the School Bell includes more details and specifics about the 2014-2015 Budget, but please do not hesitate to contact the Board or District Office if you have additional questions. I encourage you to visit the polls at Liverpool High School on May 20th and be part of this very important community decision.

Sincerely,

Pat DeBona-Rosier
Board of Education President

---

**Budget Hearing**
Thursday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m.
District Office Board Room
(195 Blackberry Road)

**Budget Vote**
Tuesday, May 20, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Liverpool High School Gymnasium
(4338 Wetzel Road)
Proposed Budget: $138,641,389  Percent Change: 2.11%

Three Part Budget Summary*

**Program Component**
The program component is the largest part of a school district budget and represents 74.64 percent ($103,480,687) of the 2014-2015 budget. This component includes expenses related to instructional personnel and programs, pupil transportation, and co-curricular activities and athletics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Improvement</td>
<td>$202,916</td>
<td>$325,917</td>
<td>60.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular School</td>
<td>$36,227,045</td>
<td>$37,139,689</td>
<td>2.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Schools</td>
<td>$14,249,963</td>
<td>$14,977,314</td>
<td>5.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Media</td>
<td>$4,187,946</td>
<td>$4,634,745</td>
<td>10.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Services</td>
<td>$5,286,791</td>
<td>$5,690,545</td>
<td>7.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Transportation</td>
<td>$5,431,661</td>
<td>$5,846,088</td>
<td>7.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$34,207,062</td>
<td>$34,577,889</td>
<td>1.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund Transfers</td>
<td>$288,500</td>
<td>$288,500</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM COMPONENT TOTAL</td>
<td>$100,081,884</td>
<td>$103,480,687</td>
<td>3.40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*According to statewide regulations, the district must provide a budget summary showing three components: administrative, program and capital.
**Capital Component**

The capital component represents 16.79 percent ($23,283,504) of the 2014-2015 school budget. It includes expenses related to operation and maintenance of district facilities, debt service and employee benefits attributed to salaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Services</td>
<td>$10,135,817</td>
<td>$9,842,793</td>
<td>-2.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Items</td>
<td>$140,410</td>
<td>$142,197</td>
<td>1.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$3,093,807</td>
<td>$3,078,351</td>
<td>-0.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$10,690,978</td>
<td>$10,220,163</td>
<td>-4.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITAL COMPONENT TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$24,061,012</td>
<td>$23,283,504</td>
<td>-3.23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Component**

The administrative component is the smallest part of the budget and represents 8.57 percent ($11,877,198) of the 2014-2015 budget. It includes expenses related to the Board of Education, central administration, instructional supervision, finance, legal services, central services (excluding operations & maintenance) and employee benefits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Education</td>
<td>$27,457</td>
<td>$27,553</td>
<td>0.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration</td>
<td>$382,055</td>
<td>$313,780</td>
<td>-17.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>$837,961</td>
<td>$849,508</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$968,878</td>
<td>$1,067,260</td>
<td>10.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Services</td>
<td>$599,211</td>
<td>$614,100</td>
<td>2.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Items</td>
<td>$821,476</td>
<td>$868,695</td>
<td>5.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Improvement</td>
<td>$4,173,767</td>
<td>$4,336,226</td>
<td>3.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$3,827,325</td>
<td>$3,800,076</td>
<td>-0.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$11,638,130</td>
<td>$11,877,198</td>
<td>2.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL BUDGET</strong></td>
<td>$135,781,026</td>
<td>$138,641,389</td>
<td>2.11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Budget Revenue 2014-2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Summary</th>
<th>Budget 2013-2014</th>
<th>Budget 2014-2015</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Property Tax</td>
<td>$76,310,421</td>
<td>$77,944,576</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>$50,954,443</td>
<td>$53,270,751</td>
<td>4.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Aid</td>
<td>$225,000</td>
<td>$225,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>$5,032,191</td>
<td>$4,103,018</td>
<td>-18.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$3,258,971</td>
<td>$3,098,044</td>
<td>-4.94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Includes:**
- Sales Tax: $429,076, $429,076, 0.00%
- Interfund Transfers: $338,873, $50,000, -85.25%
- PILOTS: $1,328,000, $1,454,588, 9.53%
- Charges for Services: $213,186, $242,530, 13.76%
- Use of Property: $272,786, $199,800, -26.76%
- Sale of Property/Loss Comp.: $21,550, $21,550, 0.00%
- Miscellaneous: $655,500, $700,500, 6.86%

**Total:** $135,781,026, $138,641,389, 2.11%

---

**Also on the Ballot...**

**Proposition #2: Bus Purchase for $1,075,194**

“Shall the Board of Education (“Board”) of the Liverpool Central School District (“District”) be authorized to purchase: seven (7) 66-passenger school buses at a maximum estimated cost of $118,510 each; one (1) small school bus with wheelchair station and air conditioning at a maximum estimated cost of $66,025; one (1) 30-passenger school bus with air-conditioning at a maximum estimated cost of $54,884; two (2) one-ton pick-up trucks with v-plow at a maximum estimated cost of $43,996; and one (1) one-ton cargo van with glass rack at a maximum estimated cost of $33,723, together with maximum estimated bonding and legal costs of $3,000, for a total combined maximum estimated expenditure of $1,075,194; and shall the Board be authorized to raise the specified sum for these purposes, or so much thereof as may be necessary, by levying a tax upon the taxable property of the District, to be collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law; and in anticipation of such tax, to issue obligations of the District?”

Typically, school buses are in service for 10-plus years and accumulate in excess of 100,000 miles before they are replaced. As age and mileage accumulate, school buses become increasingly more costly to operate and maintain.

The buses proposed for purchase will be equipped with safety features such as dual automatic stop signs, rooftop strobe lights, improved mirror systems, anti-lock brakes, digital camera systems, global position monitoring system and clean burning engine technology.

The new vehicles will ensure that the school district will continue to accommodate the diversity of student transportation service needs in a timely and cost effective manner.

---

**The Liverpool Public Library will hold its annual budget vote on the same day, same time and same place as the LCSD Budget Vote.**
Candidates for Board of Education

Three terms of office on the Liverpool Central School District Board of Education will expire on June 30, 2014. Successors will be elected to three-year terms, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2017, at the annual school district election on May 20, 2014. These Board seats currently are held by Stacey O’Neill Balduf, James M. Root and Kevin Van Ness. A fourth term of office also will be filled during the annual school district election due to a vacancy on the Board of Education. This seat was held by Stephen DiMarco, who resigned in March 2014. The successor to this office will be elected to a one-year term, effective May 21, 2014, to June 30, 2015.

Crystal Baker

My name is Crystal Baker and I am running for a position on Liverpool’s Board of Education.

My husband, Scott and I have been residents of Liverpool for the past 20 years and our son, Eric currently attends Liverpool Middle. I hold a bachelor’s degree in psychology from SUNY Oswego. In my past work experience, I was an education coordinator for the Migrant Head Start program and a vocational evaluation technician at BOCES, which provided testing and assessment for job placement for at risk youth as well as alternative job placement for adults with disabilities.

I have been employed with Transitional Living Services (TLS) for the past 15 years. As the employee development specialist, I assist employees with obtaining both required training and continued education through professional development. I also supervised a team that provided individualized daily living support to adults with developmental disabilities, individuals with a dual diagnosis of mental health issues and developmental disabilities and individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

In addition, for the last five years, I have been a co-facilitator for Onondaga County’s National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Affiliate. I have assisted in bringing cutting edge diversity training models to our county, and to employees at TLS. These trainings provide a forum to discuss the continued mistreatment and oppression of various groups in our society (and community) today, giving us the opportunity to advocate for change.

In my personal time I coach youth soccer, which I have done for the past seven years. I also enjoy boating with my family, playing the flute and continuing my education of American Sign Language along with my son, Eric.

As a member of our Liverpool community, a parent of a child currently enrolled in our district, and candidate for the Board, I am invested in learning and understanding all that I can so as to better plan for the future education of all of our children. I am also invested in supporting the teachers that provide this education and for the well being of our educational system as a whole.

Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact our district’s athletic and music programs have had with my son. Through parental involvement, I have seen children in these programs gain important qualities such as, good sportsmanship, time management, competitiveness and leadership. I will continue to be supportive of our district’s athletic and music programs.

Please support me on May 20th at the annual school district election.

Neil Fitzpatrick

My name is Neil Fitzpatrick and I’m running for a seat on the Liverpool Central School District Board of Education.

I have lived in Liverpool for more than 20 years. My wife Lisa and I have two children we are raising in Liverpool; Kelly, a 2013 graduate of Liverpool is now a freshman at Niagara University, and Megan, currently a freshman at the Annex. Through involvement with their education, athletics and activities I have seen firsthand the value of the Liverpool School system to them and our community at large.

I believe strongly that we have a civic responsibility to have a healthy and vibrant school system that prepares the next generations to face the challenges of their time; academically, vocationally, civically and ethically. I am also of the opinion that a school district’s level of quality, good or bad, is reflected in the community at large. In short, quality schools with a wide breadth of offerings to its student body benefit all in its midst; home values, crime rates, and civic engagement are all positively affected by quality schools. In return, I also believe a public school system has an obligation to its community to be good stewards of its resources and recognize the finite nature of its funding.

More challenges lie ahead, most of which do not have clear cut answers. Solutions which balance the needs of schools and taxpayers will not come easily. Future obligations are already in place and Liverpool faces challenges common to
Candidates for Board of Education

all schools in how it can meet rising costs related to healthcare, pension commitments and education/program needs. Increasing external regulation and bureaucracy coupled with decreases in funding place great strain on localities to achieve a successful balance.

Most recently, I served as a community member on the Facilities Advisory Committee which evaluated needs and made recommendations that became the recently passed Phase Two Capital Improvement Referendum. I am also a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church where I chair the Activities Committee and teach Confirmation class. I have also served several years on the Board of Directors of the Taunton Volunteer Fire Department. Professionally, I am employed with State Farm Insurance managing automobile damage claims in Central New York.

I would be appreciative of your vote and look forward to the opportunity.

Stacey O’Neill Balduf

My name is Stacey Balduf (O’Neill) and I wish to thank the residents of the Liverpool Central School District for allowing me the privilege of serving as your representative on the School Board for the past four years. I have represented the Board as the Special Education Liaison, Fine Arts Liaison, and Athletic Liaison. I am currently a member of the Policy Committee and Partners in Education Committee.

I believe in devoting time and energy to doing the best job I can do representing the students, staff and residents of our district. I have attended numerous trainings and conferences to better understand and address our educational climate and the needs facing our district.

A graduate of the Class of 1980 at Liverpool High School, I am rooted in this district and have five children, two of whom will still be enrolled in the district next year; in fifth-grade at Willow Field Elementary (previously at Wetzel Road Elementary) and a sophomore at Liverpool High School. My children and our family are fortunate in having the opportunity to participate in many fine arts, athletic and other various activities of our district. I am also aware of what it means to have a child who required special education services.

I have worked hard with the board to be fiscally responsible while offering a sound education to our students. During these fiscal times, I believe that making time for the active involvement of our community is more important than ever before. It allows for the opportunity to bring important conversations to the board for our discussion and helps me to make informed choices on behalf of our district. So, I renew my promise to do everything I can to continue this effort.

My husband and I are practicing attorneys with my matrimonial/family law office in Liverpool. I also provide matrimonial/family law mediation, as I am a trained mediator. We are members of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in the village of Liverpool. In addition to running our business, my experience includes being a member of various committees and boards in Central New York.

The future of our district will hold many challenges in the upcoming years. My skills as a litigator and trained mediator will aid me in making tough decisions. These skills will also help me to work creatively and collaboratively with others in this district in a continued effort to achieve great things on behalf of our students and the community as a whole.

It has been a privilege to serve on this board and have the opportunity to meet so many people who are instrumental in shaping the lives and futures of our children. Please feel free to contact me at 622-5202 or by e-mail at staceybalduf@gmail.com with any questions, concerns or comments.

James Michael Root

My name is James Michael Root and I would like to introduce myself to the residents of the Liverpool Central School District. I was born and raised in Mattydale. I have been a Liverpool resident for the past 42 years. Most of my formal education has been from local academic institutions: St. Margaret’s School, Christian Brothers Academy, Le Moyne College and Syracuse University.

For 39 years, I was a faculty member of Elmcrest Elementary in Liverpool. My specialty was primary education. During my tenure of being a public school teacher, I had the privilege of instructing students at the kindergarten, first and second grade levels.

My wife, Christine, was a teaching assistant for 25 years in Liverpool. My son, Ryan, is currently a sixth-grade teacher in the Cicero-North Syracuse School District. My daughter, Kara, is a special education teacher who is raising three young children. Both of them are graduates of the Liverpool

Candidate Bios continued on page 8
Candidates for Board of Education

Kevin Van Ness

When considering whether to run for a second term on the Liverpool Central School District Board of Education, I had to weigh the continued time commitment required versus the work yet to be accomplished. First, a reflection back on what the BOE has accomplished and/or has struggled with during my brief tenure: the hiring of a new superintendent, the decision not to move forward with grade reconfiguration, endorsement of a redistricting plan, reinstatement of foreign language offerings at the middle school level, a push back against Common Core standards and testing, no significant erosion of our fine arts and athletic offerings, and oversight of the recent $37.9 million capital bond referendum to update our crumbling and outdated infrastructure. My own growth as a BOE member was enhanced by my involvement with the district Audit and Policy committees and as special education liaison.

My decision to seek re-election came down to two key factors. The first factor is that I believe this current BOE has hit its “groove” point. We are no longer a new board with most members having at least three years of experience. We are now a cohesive unit with common goals and understanding of a collective mission. I have witnessed and experienced the negative impact turnover and resignations can cause the BOE. I look forward to working with my BOE colleagues and our superintendent in the coming years to institute new initiatives and provide the necessary programmatic and financial stewardship required in these challenging times.

The second factor driving my decision is that there is significant work yet to be done. We must continue to redefine what it means for students to be college and career ready for jobs in the 21st century; we should continue to push the envelope around the concept of shared administrative services where it makes sense; and, pursue a constructive and meaningful teacher evaluation system.

My professional background involves more than 20 years experience as an administrator with the New York State ACCES-VR office. I hold a BS degree from Lake Forest College (Illinois) and an MPA from Syracuse University. My wife Rebecca and I have four adult children (all graduates of Liverpool). I look forward to serving the community for a second term if re-elected.

Community members can view the 2014-2015 Budget Document at any of the district’s buildings and the Liverpool Public Library. This document and other related budget documents can be viewed on the Liverpool Central School District Web site at www.liverpool.k12.ny.us.
The sliding scale exemptions are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exemptions</th>
<th>If income is less than:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$29,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>$30,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$31,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$32,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$33,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$34,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about possible property tax exemptions, contact your local town tax assessor at 315-451-3231 (town of Salina) or 315-652-3800 (town of Clay), or visit the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Web site at www.tax.ny.gov, then click on the “Individuals” tab.

Residents who are properly registered to vote on the 2014-2015 School Budget and Board of Education candidates can do so on Tuesday, May 20, in the Liverpool High School main gymnasium (4338 Wetzel Road).

Voters should enter the building near the LHS tennis courts. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information regarding the vote, contact the Office of Staff and Student Services at 315-622-7130.

Residents living in the Liverpool Central School District can vote during the School Budget and Board of Education election on May 20, 2014.

Voters must be:
- Citizens of the United States;
- 18 years of age or older;
- Residents of the school district for at least a 30-day period immediately preceding the election; and
- Registered with the district Board of Voter Registration or the Onondaga County Board of Elections.

Residents who have registered to vote with LCSD, and have maintained that registration by voting in a school district election within the last four calendar years, are properly registered to vote.

Residents who are not registered with the district can do so on Tuesday, May 13, in Room 2 of the District Office (195 Blackberry Road in Bayberry) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Those who currently are registered to vote with the Onondaga County Board of Elections also may vote in school elections with no further registration. However, those who are not also entered in the school district register of voters may experience a slight delay at the polls because they will be asked to execute poll records for the district voter file before they will be permitted to vote.

Qualified voters who will be away from home or are otherwise unable to vote in person may vote by absentee ballot. The District Clerk must receive absentee ballots no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day.

To obtain an absentee ballot application, or for more information, contact the Office of Staff and Student Services at 315-622-7130.
Meet the Student Board Liaisons

**Marc Alessi, Senior**

Are you involved in any school clubs and activities? I am currently a team captain of the Liverpool High School Varsity Swim Team, co-president of the Science Olympiad Team, a member of the LHS Pit Orchestra, and a member of the National Honor Society.

Do you play a musical instrument? I play the cello in the LHS Symphonic Orchestra. I was lucky to participate in All-County Orchestra for a number of years and was an alternate for the recent All-State Conference in December. I also play the piano at community and school events and at weddings.

Do you perform volunteer work? Where? I am a member of the Pope John XXIII Choir where I play the cello and piano most Sundays during the school year. Additionally, I started a fund-raiser last year named “Walk for Dave” in honor of my father who passed away from ataxia. The proceeds from this walk benefit the research done at the National Ataxia Foundation in Minneapolis.

Are you employed? Where? I am a head lifeguard and swim instructor for LHS. Over the summer I lifeguard for the town of Salina 40 hours a week.

Who has been the greatest influence in your life or in school? Why? My parents have had the most influence on me as a person. My dad never gave up fighting a disease and my mom is the most determined, outgoing person I have ever met. I would also like to thank my two mentors Jeffry Peneston and my uncle Robert Powell who serve as an inspiration to me and push me to my full potential as a student and as a person.

Have you won any awards or honors? I am most proud of the awards I have won in Science Olympiad, the American Legion Award that I received in eighth grade, the Gold Music Award for outstanding musicianship, and other scholastic/athletic awards. I have also earned the title of an Academic All American from the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (NISCA).

What are your career aspirations? I have wanted to become a meteorologist since first grade and will pursue that career at Cornell University starting in the fall.

What hobbies or activities interest you? In my free time I enjoy playing the piano or cello, reading, or playing Civilizations on the computer. I find history, languages, and numerical systems very interesting and try to study them when I’m doing nothing else. Being a student liaison for the BOE, I am also an avid participant in politics.

What is your favorite class? This is honestly an impossible question to answer because I have learned so much interesting information in so many classes. However, I would say earth science is by far the most exciting.

What do you think about being a student board liaison? Honestly, being a student liaison has been one of the most engaging activities I have pursued in my high school career. I love observing how the government works, I am happy to report information between the board and the high school, and I have met so many driven individuals who work for the better of the district. Plus I’m on a first name basis with the Superintendent, which is a pretty big deal to me. Who wouldn’t want to know the inside scoop on certain issues dealing with the high school?

**Jacqueline Chilbert, Senior**

Are you involved in any school clubs and activities? I play field hockey, and have played for the school team since seventh grade. I also rowed for the school’s crew team in ninth, 10th and 11th grade. Also I am a member of I AM NORM; it is a club at the high school that promotes the inclusion of all people. The goal is to be able to break down the barriers that diversity can build up. In addition, I am a member of the National Honor Society.

Do you perform volunteer work? Where? Since I have been in high school I have taken part in many community service projects. I love volunteering because I love knowing that I am helping make someone else’s life better, or at least putting a smile on their face. Just a few volunteer projects: Guatemala Bottle School Fundraiser (2011); Autism Walk (2011); Earth Day Clean Up (2012); Soule Road Craft Fair Volunteer (2008 - 2012); Flood Clean Up in Binghamton; Down’s Syndrome Buddy Walk (2013); Adaptive Phys. Ed. (2012 - Present); Special Olympics (2013); Board Of Education Liaison (2013 – Present).

Are you employed? Where? Yes, I work in the summers as a nanny for two children three days a week. I also work at CNY Gym Centre in Great Northern Mall as a coach, and finally I referee field hockey every Sunday at Syracuse Indoor Soccer Center.

Who has been the greatest influence in your life or in school? Why? My parents have been the biggest influence in my life because they never give up on me, even when I give up on myself. They always help me push through my weaknesses and achieve my goals. They are always there with words of encouragement when I need help.


What are your career aspirations? I hope to become a lawyer in Family Court. I want to be able to help the children who can’t help themselves.

What hobbies or activities interest you? I love playing field hockey although I do not plan on playing in college. I really enjoy volunteering; I love to know that what I’m doing makes a difference.

What is your favorite class? My favorite class that I have taken in high school was ninth- and 10th-grade global history. We learned about every country and all the events that took place that shaped our world into becoming what it is today. My teachers made the class so involved and entertaining that I sometimes would forget that I was in a classroom. I can honestly say that high school I was never more excited than I was to go to those classes.

What do you think about being a student board liaison? I actually love being one of the board liaisons. I have been going to meetings since I was in 10th grade and they have always interested me. I love knowing the ins and outs of what makes our district run successfully. The board members are wonderful at explaining things when I have questions and they react quickly when issues are brought up. I am truly honored to be a part of the board this year.
For the sixth time in seven years, the NAMM Foundation has named the Liverpool Central School District one of the “Best Communities for Music Education.”

School districts were chosen for this honor because they exemplify community commitment to include music education as part of a quality education for all children. This year, 472 school communities (376 school districts and 96 schools) from across the country received this honor.

Liverpool offers a comprehensive music program that presents students with a wide range of opportunities to receive high quality instruction in classroom music, as well as performing ensembles. Several community groups also help support our efforts to provide music education to all students.

The “Best Communities” designation recognizes collaborative, from-the-ground-up efforts for teachers, administrators, students and parents who continually work to keep comprehensive music education as an integral part of the core curriculum.

The survey was sponsored by the NAMM Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advancing active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs from the international music products industry.

For more information about NAMM, visit the organization’s Web site at www.namm.org.

“I am impressed each and every day by the talent of our students and teachers at the elementary, middle and high school levels,” said LCSD Superintendent of Schools Mark F. Potter. “It is a testament to their hard work and dedication that our district has been honored once again.”

“I also want to thank our parents and community for their continued support of our music program,” he added. “I have had the opportunity to attend many concerts throughout the school year, and there is rarely an empty seat. Your encouragement means so much to our students and staff.”

The Liverpool Central School District is one of 133 school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services in New York State to receive the 2014 School Safety Excellence Award from the Utica National Insurance Group.

The honor, which is presented annually, recognizes a school district's safety efforts as it works to keep students, staff and visitors safe. Districts are evaluated using measurable assessments in several categories, including safety and policy procedures, transportation safety, playground safety, bullying prevention and fire safety.

Liverpool met more than 90 percent of the program's assessment requirements, earning the titanium with honors award (the highest award possible).

The district received a certificate to commemorate the honor and a $500 award for use in furthering its safety efforts.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank our district employees for making this award possible,” said LCSD Superintendent of Schools Mark F. Potter. “Each day, they go above and beyond to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and community members,” Potter added.

“Safety and health concerns continue to be a priority in our school districts,” said Mark Aquino, regional manager in Utica National’s risk management department.

“Districts that go ‘above and beyond’ to provide a safe, healthy and focused culture for learning are to be applauded, and we’re pleased to count the Liverpool Central School District among them,” Aquino added.

The Liverpool Central School District also earned this award in 2011.
District Librarians to Present Inaugural ‘Bresnahan Book Award’

The Liverpool Central School District and its library media specialists will celebrate the life of fellow library media specialist Lori Bresnahan during a special ceremony on Friday, May 2, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble on Route 31. At the time, they will present the inaugural Bresnahan Book Award.

Soule Road Elementary Library Media Specialist Kay Budmen said that after Bresnahan passed away in March 2013, the district’s library media specialists were looking for a way to honor her life.

“One of Lori’s great passions was sharing books with children,” Budmen said.

Together the library media specialists decided that there was no better way to keep her love of literature alive than by creating a book award in her honor.

LCSD Executive Director for Elementary Education Steven Garraffo said that every other year, the New York State Reading Association presents the Charlotte Award, which recognizes books that represent diversity, demonstrate different genres and formats, and appeal to children as much as they appeal to their teachers. The children are the ones who determine the Charlotte Award winner.

“lt was Lori’s favorite award,” Garraffo said, adding that Bresnahan always made sure to share the nominees with her students.

So when the list of Charlotte Award nominees was announced this year, the library media specialists decided to use several of them as the nominees for the Bresnahan Book Award.

Garraffo worked with the Barnes and Noble on Route 31 to secure sets of each book for the district at a discounted price.

Students at all nine elementary schools then had the opportunity to read each one and participate in post-reading activities.

In March the students had the opportunity to vote for their favorite book.

LCSD students at the middle school and high school levels also have been involved with this new award.

Middle school students were asked to design the award’s logo, with Liverpool Middle seventh-grader Sarah Wong’s work selected as the winning design.

High school students created the online voting system that was used to tally the votes cast by LCSD elementary students. They also took Wong’s logo and created a seal to be placed on the cover of the winning book.

Garraffo said the Barnes and Noble on Route 31 is the perfect place to unveil this year’s Bresnahan Book Award winner, noting that LCSD librarians can often be found in the store after school hours or on the weekends.

“Lori was a fixture there,” he added.

The Bresnahan Book Award event also will include LCSD celebrities reading each of the 10 nominees and several guest speakers.

In addition to the celebration, Barnes and Noble is hosting a book fair that evening. Proceeds will go toward building “Lori’s Bookshelf” in every LCSD elementary school.

Nominees for the First Bresnahan Book Award

Around One Log: Chipmunks, Spiders & Creepy Insiders by Anthony D. Fredericks and Jennifer DiRubbio

Because Amelia Smiled by David Ezra Stein

Cloudette by Tom Lichtenheld

Friends: True Stories of Extraordinary Animal Friendships by Catherine Thimmesh

Goldilocks and Just One Bear by Leigh Hodgkinson

I Need My Own Country! by Rick Walton and Wes Hargis

Jangles: A Big Fish Story by David Shannon

Penguin and Pinecone by Salina Yoon

Spike the Mixed Up Monster by Susan Hood and Melissa Sweet

Who Has This Tail by Laura Hulbert and Erik Brooks
District Uses Too Many Snow Days

On March 12, the Liverpool Central School District used its sixth snow day of the 2013-2014 school year. This means that Liverpool used more snow days than the school calendar provides under the regulations in New York State Education Law.

Because of this, the district has had to make changes to the remainder of this school year’s calendar. Please note the following changes:

* **Friday, May 23**, will now be a *Superintendent’s Conference Day* (Students Do Not Report)
* **Tuesday, May 27**, will now be a *Regular School Day for Students and Staff* (it was originally part of the Memorial Day Holiday)
* **Thursday, June 26**, will now be the *Last Day of School for Students and Staff*

“This, by far, was one of the worst winters we have experienced in a long time,” said LCSD Superintendent of Schools Mark F. Potter. “I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians for their patience throughout the winter months.”

What Happens Now?

Babysitter, Child Care Request Forms Due July 15

Liverpool Central School District parents and guardians must make a request for student transportation to any childcare provider within district boundaries.

Requests for transportation to a registered daycare provider outside of their child’s home school boundaries OR a babysitter within a student’s home school boundaries must be submitted to the LCSD Transportation Department.

To download an application, visit the Transportation Department Web site at www.liverpool.k12.ny.us/transportation. Applications for the 2014-2015 school year must be postmarked by Tuesday, July 15, to ensure that transportation will be available when school starts on Thursday, September 4. Applications must be renewed annually.

For more information, contact the Transportation Department at 315-453-0287.

Parents and guardians who are requesting student transportation to a registered babysitter outside of their child’s home school boundaries, which will result in a child attending a school other than his or her assigned home school, should contact the Office of Elementary Education at 315-622-7177 for more information.

Join the Key Communicator E-mail List

Would you like important information regarding the Liverpool Central School District sent directly to your e-mail address?

Community members who subscribe to the district’s “Key Communicator” Mailing List will receive special messages from the superintendent’s office by e-mail regarding topics such as early dismissals and school closings, public hearings and important notices.

Subscribers also will receive Board of Education meeting agendas, and will be alerted when the District Web site’s Sex Offender Registry page has been updated.

To join the electronic distribution list, please send your name, street address and e-mail address to MPiper@liverpool.k12.ny.us. Please include “Key Communicator” in the subject of your e-mail.

The Liverpool High School Student Council presents the annual:

Community Carnival!

Food, drink, games, bounce houses
AND SO MUCH MORE!!!

Saturday, May 10th
1 P.M. – 5 P.M.
High School Marching Band Field

Admission is **free** and tickets for food and games are only **50 cents each**!

Please come show your support for student government! 😊
Healthy Hints
What’s Cooking In May?
by Kerry Dal

The first week of May is National Herb Week! We have focused the last few months on lowering sodium in our diets for improved health (and in preparation for the upcoming changes to the School Breakfast and Lunch programs) so it seems like the perfect opportunity to introduce helpful tips on using fresh herbs.

Fresh herbs are virtually calorie and sodium-free. They also instantly add flavor and enhance the appearance of a food dish.

Below is a list of common herbs and the foods they complement best:

- **Basil** - tomato sauces, fresh salsa, fresh pesto, peas, zucchini
- **Cilantro** - salsa, tomatoes, any Mexican dishes
- **Dill** - cauliflower, carrots, cottage cheese, fish, green beans, potatoes, tomatoes
- **Mint** - carrots, fruit salads, peas, tea
- **Oregano** - peppers, tomatoes
- **Parsley** - potato salad, tabouli, egg salad
- **Rosemary** - chicken, fish, lamb, pork, potatoes, soups, stews
- **Thyme** - eggs, lima beans, potatoes, poultry, summer squash, tomatoes

You can grow your own fresh herbs or purchase them in the produce section in most local grocery stores. If this is not an option for you, dried or ground herbs also are available.

One tablespoon of chopped fresh herbs is equivalent to 1 teaspoon of crumbled, dried herbs or $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of ground herbs. Start with this amount per 1 pound of meat or 1 pint of soup or sauce, but feel free to adjust as needed for your own desired taste.

When using fresh herbs, chop them no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch across with a very sharp knife to avoid bruising of leaves. Using the very soft part of the stem is fine. Add most herbs a minute or two before the end of cooking.

Oregano, rosemary, and thyme can be added the last 20 minutes of cooking because they are less delicate than other herbs.

For “herb growers,” try planting lemon thyme as opposed to English thyme; it goes well with spring vegetables and seafood. Also, if you would like to try mint, consider spear-mint.

Since the second week of May is National Screen-Free Week (formally known as TV-Free Week), you can use that time in the kitchen with your family experimenting with fresh herbs!

Kerry Dal, RD, is a registered school dietitian for Onondaga Cortland Madison BOCES.

---

LHS Seniors Sign Letters

Liverpool High School senior Samuel Busco received an athletic grant-in-aid to row at Syracuse University next year.

Liverpool High School senior Alexis Kline signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Le Moyne College next year.

BOE Approves 2014-15 School Calendar

At its March 10 meeting, the Liverpool Central School District Board of Education approved the calendar for the 2014-2015 school year.

- **Sept. 1:** Labor Day
- **Sept. 2-3:** Staff Orientation
- **Sept. 4:** First Day of School
- **Sept. 29:** Prof. Development Half Day
- **Oct. 13:** Columbus Day
- **Oct. 24:** Superintendent’s Conference Day
- **Nov. 11:** Veterans Day Observance
- **Nov. 26-28:** Thanksgiving Recess
- **Dec. 12:** Prof. Development Half Day
- **Dec. 22-31:** Holiday Recess
- **Dec. 25:** Christmas Holiday
- **Jan. 1-2:** New Year’s Holiday
- **Jan. 19:** Martin Luther King Day
- **Jan. 26-29:** Regents Exams
- **Jan. 30:** Prof. Development Half Day
- **Feb. 16:** President’s Day Holiday
- **Feb. 16-20:** Winter Recess
- **March 20:** Superintendent’s Conference Day
- **April 3:** Good Friday
- **April 6-10:** Spring Recess
- **May 22:** Prof. Development Half Day
- **May 25:** Memorial Day Holiday
- **June 2:** Common Core Exams
- **June 16-24:** Regents Exams
- **June 20:** Graduation
- **June 25:** Rating Day
Liverpool Dollars For Scholars

Donations from the annual Liverpool Dollars For Scholars Phone-a-thon/Mail-a-thon are being deposited into our account, waiting to be distributed to this year’s scholarship winners in June. Go to liverpooldfs.org to check out our website and learn about local, regional, and national scholarships.

Scholarship donors, sponsors, and winners will be invited to our annual reception, the next big event on our agenda. We are well into the planning stages for the reception, which gives us a chance to publicly acknowledge the people who donate the money as well as recognize the students who win the scholarships. We also thank the individuals and groups who sponsor the reception. Contact John at 451-4653 if you would like to donate $100 and become a reception sponsor.

Plans are also in the works for our annual Liverpool DFS Golf Tournament, which will be held at Foxfire in Baldwinsville on Monday, June 30. Golfers and sponsors are needed for the event. This is our second largest fundraiser. Think about sponsoring a hole and/or putting together a foursome. The event costs $90/person, which includes golf, continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Extensive community participation makes the golf tournament a worthwhile fundraiser and an enjoyable social event. Please contact Matt at 374-8666 or Adam at 882-8298 to sign up to play or to sponsor a hole.

We thank the following merchants for sponsoring spring fundraisers to support Liverpool Dollars for Scholars: Chuckleberries, Chipotle on Route 31 (Monday, May 5/Cinco de Mayo), and Denny’s off Seventh North Street (Thursday, May 1 from 4 p.m. to close). Those businesses have agreed to donate a certain percentage of their proceeds for the day to Liverpool Dollars for Scholars. Please support them as they support us.

As always, we appreciate the wonderful financial support we receive from the entire Liverpool community as we move closer to our goal of awarding a scholarship to every college bound Liverpool High School graduating senior. Thank you!

If you would like to make a scholarship donation, a tear-off form is included for your convenience.

Liverpool Dollars for Scholars Pledge Form
Spring 2014

Name__________________________________________________________________

Address__________________________________________________________________

Amount of Donation ______________________________________________________ (LCSD)

_____ Check or money order, payable to Liverpool Dollars for Scholars, is enclosed.

_____ Please contact me. I am interested in sponsoring a scholarship and/or becoming a member of the Board of Directors. I can be reached at the following telephone number and/or email address:

__________________________________________________________________________

Return the completed form to Liverpool Dollars for Scholars, P.O. Box 32, Liverpool, NY 13088-0032. Thank you for your generosity.
Postal Patron