

# KNIGHT LIFE

## *class of 2026* **RING DAY**



### **Stephen Martin, Junior**

Ring Day for the Class of 2026 was held on November 27, 2024 and honored our Lake-Lehman Juniors as they move through another milestone of high school. This year's ceremony focused on themes of redefinition as the ceremony symbolized more than just a tradition. The ceremony was led by President Stephen Martin and Vice-President Olivia Corcoran. After the ceremony, juniors roamed the LL halls to get their 126 ring spins, symbolizing good luck that will be locked into their graduation year. Finally, juniors gathered in the gym for a luncheon to celebrate their big day!



# LE COMMUNITY

## PETER FENTON *Conorates* LE PERFORMANCE

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Lake Lehman High School for putting on a great second-ever performance of my teen comedy! My parents and I traveled up to Wilkes-Barre to watch opening night. *CORONATION* was the first production in the school's brand-new renovated theater space, with a full set and lighting.

Some students had standout performances—they took a gamble having the lead role of DANI be played by a girl (which I was very keen to see!) and the young woman they cast in the role crushed it. What I saw on stage last night was pretty much what I wanted this show to be: students seemed to have fun performing it, the audience laughed, and I could tell something about the teen experience got through to the cast and audience. Couldn't ask for more from this talented high school cast!





# JUNIOR HIGH ESPORTS TEAM GAMES TO A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Esports at Lake-Lehman are on fire. Members of the D1 team are ranked #1 including Jayden Vanderhoof, Dakota Kytte, Duane Kennedy. In last night's semi final game, Landen Keen stepped in for Vanderhoof and together the team succeeded in Super Smash Brothers Ultimate.

As of 12/17/24, Central Valley Middle School forfeited the State Championship to Lake Lehman. Despite the big championship win, the Knights were hoping to be able to fight a little harder for gold in the cancelled final match. Congratulations to our state champions!

Farewell and best wishes to Mrs Pellegrino. Her dedication and professionalism as a teacher was always appreciated. As a member of the history department, she always went the extra mile to help students succeed. Students may remember her from the elementary school as the coordinator of talent shows which were always a grand productions. We will also miss your singing and dancing in the morning as well as your "heart of gold." Thank You Mrs Pellegrino; you will go down in history!



## AN UPDATE FROM *Mrs. Check*

Stephen Martin, Junior

Knightlife exclusives were able to speak to Mrs. Check to clarify the details of her absence.

On Thanksgiving Day, Mrs. Check was carrying her sister's garment bag for her niece's upcoming wedding. She fell over said bag and she told Knightlife, "the next thing I knew I was on the floor."

At first she thought she may have just "twisted her ankle", but after an x ray she discovered she cracked the part of her fibula bone going into her ankle. As of 12/17 she has a plate and 2 screws in her leg. Mrs. Check tells all students in the Lake-Lehman community that she misses them dearly and hopes to be back to teaching in March.



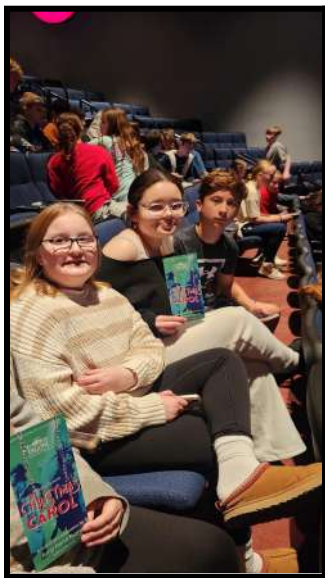
# A Christmas Carol: PLAY REVIEW

Jasmyne Kreidler & Colby McDonald, Guest Writers

On Wednesday December 11 the 7th grade ELA classes went to see Charles Dicken Classic, *A Christmas Carol*. Knightlife received 2 perspectives on the play from 7th graders Jasmyne and Colby.

The play was a wonderful work of resourcefulness and creativity. The actors perfectly performed Scrooge's turning point in morality, especially at the scene where he begs to be spared of his upcoming demise. I thought the actors did wonderfully with all of their parts, and it was even more impressive seeing them switch roles so easily. The set was also very clever, because while they didn't have an exact set, they used cardboard boxes to their advantage and successfully created comprehensible visuals of the scenes. My favorite part of the play was at the end, when Scrooge had a change of heart and became a nicer person to everyone he knew.

In my opinion the acting was alright. There were only three people, and they kept switching roles. This made it hard to do scenes with multiple characters in them. The visual/design aspects were not as good as they could have been. Everything was made of cardboard boxes, so it was kind of hard for me to picture what they were sitting, laying, and walking through. There was also no backdrop so scenes felt like they were on a stage. My favorite part of the play was when Christmas Future came out from under the stage. This was really cool because it really represented how mysterious he was. My least favorite part of the play was when the actors would stack boxes on top of each other. I didn't like this part because no one talked and it was kind of dry.





# LL ATHLETICS

## SWIM & DIVE

**Mollie Kuhar, Senior**



As the Lake-Lehman Swim Team jumps into their 2025-2026 season, three new divers will join the team this year! Logan Womach, Mason Ronczka, and Gierria Kirkutis train three days a week at the Dallas Middle School Natatorium to prepare for the season. These are the team's first divers in over eight years! Each diver scores a minimum of six points just for competing, and every diver can also choose to compete in swimming events as well.

Along with divers, the team has a new co-op with Northwest Area School District that allows Northwest students to swim (or dive!) on the Lake-Lehman team. Two new boys joined the team following the co-op that was approved earlier this school year.

Coach Chris Kuhar and assistant coach Tracey McGurk are leading the team this year, along with captains Cassidy Gallagher, Mollie Kuhar, Jack Kashatus, and Connor Runquist. Their first meet on December 5th ended in two successful wins for both teams, and are hoping to continue their success when the team competes at the Elk Lake Invitational over Christmas break on December 27th!

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

**Betsy DiGiovanni, Sophomore**

Our Lake-Lehman Girls' Basketball team is starting their season off strong with a big win over Marian Catholic last Thursday. Additionally, they scrimmaged Wilkes-Barre Area, participated in the Hazelton Tournament over Thanksgiving break, and played at Dunmore last Saturday. They were finalists last season in the Wyoming Valley Conference, and although they lost a couple of notable seniors, they have great potential for a strong season this year. They are coached by Head Coach Charlie Lavan and Assistant Coaches Jen Purdy and Kyle Purdy. The only senior this year is Ella Wilson who is committed to Mercy University to continue her basketball career. Everyone go support your Lady Knights in upcoming games this season!







# FALL SPORTS ALL STARS

## GOLF

**Boys First Team:**  
Charlie Weidner

## XC

**Boys First Team:** Stephen Martin, Tyler Lukavitch, Spencer Smith

**Girls First Team:**

Alana Palmaioli,  
Betsy DiGiovanni



## FIELD HOCKEY

**Girls First Team:** Olivia Oliver, Isabella Decesaris, Gianna DeCesaris

## SOCCER

**Girls First Team:** Kinley Purdy, Mia Stillarty, Ashley Hudak, Gracie Bucknavage, Keira Lucarino

**Girls Second Team:** Brynleigh Bennett, Lexi Peiffer, Betsy DiGiovanni, Ava Blazes

**Boys First Team:** Andrew Chapple, Andrew Mathes, Greyson Dieffenbacher

**Boys Second Team:** Tristan Purdy, Nicco Diana, Logan Law, Jonny Sassi

# FALL SPORTS ALL STATE



**Andrew Chapple:**  
First Team All-State Goalie, Soccer



**Bella DeCesaris:**  
First Team All-State Midfielder, Field Hockey



**Ashley Hudak:**  
First Team All-State Offender, Soccer



**Olivia Oliver:**  
First Team All-State Midfielder, Field Hockey



# CLUB NEWS



Lake-Lehman's Interact Club delivered "Snack Attacks" to our beloved staff members. We appreciate all you do for us. We thank you for the "fruits of your labor."



Every Holiday Season, Lake-Lehman organizations and clubs u-knight for a very special Children's Christmas Party at the school. This year, over 120 gifts were delivered to community members in need.



## Key Club's 2024 COMMUNITREE



## TREE of *Light*



SADD Stands for Students Against Destructive Decisions. Here at Lake-Lehman, this is a student-led club open to all students in grades 9-12. SADD empowers and mobilizes students and adult allies to engage in positive change through leadership and smart decision making. All students collaborate to create a healthier and safer world, one positive decision at a time.

The Tree of Light is designed to honor the memory of those we have lost to destructive decision making. This year's tree is lit in memory of Michael Company, a former Lake-Lehman student, who lost his life on July 3rd 2024 at the hand's of a drunk driver.

We encourage you to use this tree to light up the names of your loved ones this holiday season as a way to honor the life they lived and remember the impact they had on those around them.



# The HOLIDAYS@THE LL



MOLLIE KUHAR, SENIOR

During your long winter's nap, every creature is stirring, an endless clatter, a little old shopper, so lively and quick, real or artificial, which will St. Nicholas pick?

With this holiday season steadily approaching, the debate between real or artificial christmas trees only intensifies. Many arguments arise during this time of year supporting both sides of this famous holiday season feud. People argue about money, messiness, decorations, and many other important components to both real and artificial trees people dislike.

A typical artificial tree can cost anywhere between a hundred dollars to thousands! While the lower prices seem like a good deal, these cheaper artificial trees may only last a couple years before branches break and lights burn out. Along with damage, consumers complain that the faux branches often do not look realistic, the lights poor quality, and the never-ending annoyance of fluffing the branches that flatten out during storage.

But compared to the maintenance of a real pine tree, which is easier? Real pine trees are often difficult to put up, requiring ladders, several people to carry and position the tree in the stand, and a drill to drill the trunk if your tree stand requires that. Yet the number one complaint is the endless amount of pine needles you will find in your house... maybe even until spring! Real christmas trees also require frequent watering of the base in order to keep the tree alive. Many consumers also complain that the weak branches of a real tree cannot support heavy ornaments when decorating!

While both types of trees have their cons, they also have their pros. Real trees perfume your house with the holiday scent of fresh pine, and the journey of picking out *your* tree and cutting it down appeals to many consumers. But the artificial trees are easy to set up, and the branches can be bent in any way to support all decorations. What type of tree will your holiday heart decide on this Christmas season?



# STONE HEDGE:

## *Festival of Lights*



**Betsy DiGiovanni, Sophomore**

Are you looking for something festive to do this holiday season? From now until New Year's Day, Stone Hedge Golf Course is transformed into a "holiday wonderland". They set up roughly 2.5 miles worth of lights that you can drive through at the Stone Hedge Golf Course in Tunkhannock. This includes light display themes such as Under the Sea, USA, and Superheroes. They also change their displays yearly to make the light show larger and more interesting each time. After your tour, you can stop by their pavilion for food, s'mores, and vendors, and you can even meet Santa.

## THE WINTER DAYS **Ebin MacNeal, 8th Grade**



Last year 4 of 5 FID days were utilized for inclement weather. So what will this year bring to us? For starters this year, it's already a lot colder and with increasing wind as the year goes by. The FID days are good because they give us students a chance to catch up on the work that they have missed. FID day helps bring families together and have a chance to spend time with each other or celebrate something special. The unfortunate part about FID day is shoveling snow in my big driveway and bringing wood in from the wood pile for the house. For me, I like to go outside and lay in the snow. I also like to sit in my living room, make a cup of coffee, and watch movies and TV shows. Laying in bed with my dog is how I often pass the time. She loves to lay with me while we watch a movie. I also like to take a walk if it is nice enough out. Sometimes I like to sleep in and drink coffee in bed. Also, I like to go out and walk through the woods when I have time. If you like to do something on FID days I would like to hear what you like.



# Christmas Cookies with Grom Jonny Sassi, Senior

Over the past three weeks students in Mrs. Gromniaks Bon Appetit 1 and 2 have been constantly baking all different kinds of cookies for the children's Christmas party! One of the most popular recipes being used was a simple chocolate chip cookie recipe, and peanut butter cookie recipe. Many students have participated in the baking process across all the Bon Appetit classes, as well as some students contributing in making up to 200 different cookies. Overall the Christmas party went extremely well, and everyone seemed to enjoy the cookies. Small things like baking and decorating the cookies really help to bring around the holiday spirit!



**LUZERNE**  
County Community College

**ATTENTION: JUNIORS & SENIORS  
EARLY COLLEGE TRADE  
PROGRAMS**

**SPRING 2025**  
LAKE-LEHMAN WILL BE HOSTING:



**GET-114 INDUSTRIAL WORKPLACE SAFETY (2 CREDITS)**  
STUDENTS WILL GAIN A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF SAFETY CONCERNS AND PRACTICES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR SAFE WORKING HABITS.

**STUDENT/PARENT INFORMATIONAL NIGHT**  
DECEMBER 19, 2024  
6:00 PM AT LAKE-LEHMAN JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL




Save the Date for  
the 2nd Annual -

**U-KNIGHTED  
KNIGHT OUT**

THIS EVENT WILL BRING ALL  
BUILDINGS, STUDENTS, FAMILIES, &  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS TOGETHER FOR  
A FUN NIGHT OUT!

SATURDAY MAY 3RD, 2025  
5:00PM — 9:00PM  
UNDER THE STADIUM LIGHTS!  
RAIN DATE: MAY 17TH, 2025

**Interested in joining Knightlife?**

Follow us on Instagram [@knightlife\\_newspaper](#)  
and email us [knightlife@llsd.org](mailto:knightlife@llsd.org)!

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