



Patriot Press

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Lenape Valley Regional High School, 28 Sparta Rd., Stanhope, NJ 07874

May 2019

Upcoming Dates

May 6 - 17 ~ AP Exams

May 27 ~ No School
Memorial Day

May 31 ~ Junior/Senior
Prom

June 3 ~ Senior Trip
Pocono Valley

June 4 ~ Senior Awards
Night

June 5 ~ Senior Dinner

Marking Period 4 Exam Schedule

Wednesday - June 5
Periods 1 & 2

Thursday - June 6
Periods 3 & 4

Friday - June 7
Periods 5 & 6

Monday - June 10
Periods 7 & 8

Tuesday - June 11
Make-up Exams
Last Day

Wednesday - June 12
Thursday - June 13
Graduation Practice

Saturday - June 15
Graduation Day

THE PATRIOT PRESS

The Patriot Press is a public forum. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the advisors or the administration. The staff encourages readers to respond to **The Patriot Press**. All submissions must be signed.

Reporters

Andrew Gunther
Trinity Parks
Monet Vala

Advisor

Patricia L. Ingram

Celebrating choices made by teachers

By: Trinity Parks

Becoming a teacher is the same as becoming a super hero. After all of that schooling, teachers actually choose to go back and educate kids so that they have a chance at a better life. So why do it?

There are hundreds of reasons that educators may give for deciding to become a teacher. Some people may feel a need to be a part of wanting to see kids learn, while others simply love the subject itself! No matter what the reason, many current educators believe that becoming a teacher is one of the most rewarding jobs anyone can hope to have!

Lenape's halls are filled with teachers who "save the day" all year! From helping

with test reviews, to giving that pesky homework assignment, teachers are the some of the ones to thank when looking at straight A's on a report card.

After asking many people their reasons for becoming a teacher, a lot of them stood out. One that shone above the rest was Mrs. Patricia Fezenko's response. When asked why she became a teacher, she said, "Well, for two reasons. One was to see the look on someone's face when they understand something they thought they never would; and two, to be a part of the understanding."

Mrs. Fezenko teaches math and feels she understands the struggles some students may experience. During college she struggled with math herself, but her professor took a special inter-

est in helping her learn. From that experience, Mrs. Fezenko has become the amazing teacher that she is today.

After interviewing another teacher, it was obvious that their answers were similar in the "words" but completely unique in "emotions."

When asked why she became a teacher, Dr. Caley Richardson said, "When I started teaching, I found out I really enjoyed watching kids become fascinated in science." She became a teacher to "watch kids learn, and since science is ever-changing, it keeps (her) on her toes." And, most importantly, Dr. Richardson said that her favorite part of teaching was "the look on someone's face when he/she finally understands something!"

Four-legged Patriot creates a paw-sitive school environment

By: Monet Vala

During this past school year, the students and faculty of Lenape Valley have been sharing the halls with a new kind of Patriot — a four-legged, tail-wagging Patriot named "Momma."

Mrs. Maria Kochan, a guidance counselor at the school, started bringing her dog, Momma Sweet Pea, to the school this year, once Momma was certified as a "therapy dog." Both the staff and students at Lenape light up whenever Momma is around. Since Momma is such a sweet dog that loves people, the environment at Lenape actually allows her to thrive despite her rough background.

Mrs. Kochan originally adopted Momma as just a family pet. The animal rescue organization that helped Momma

explained that she was found on the side of the road, in poor health, with a litter of puppies. Mrs. Kochan said that "[she and her family] think Momma knew that she and her puppies needed help and resigned herself to accepting it from strangers. We always joke about how Momma is smarter than we are and in this case, we mean it!" Since being rescued by the Kochans, Momma is now in good health and a beloved member of their family.

Mrs. Kochan and her family decided to enroll Momma in dog obedience classes to build a trusting relationship with her. In regards to her success in these classes, Mrs. Kochan said, "It occurred to us that she might be a good candidate to train and volunteer as a therapy dog." They followed through with the 7 months of training. "We passed the "Bright & Beautiful Therapy

Dog" test in December, 2018. Both Mrs. Kochan and her son, James, are members of the certified therapy dog team, along with Momma.

Ever since Momma has begun coming into the school, Mrs. Kochan has noticed a difference in both the students and Momma. "Both staff and students light up when Momma is around. Some students swing by at lunch just to see Momma!" said Mrs. Kochan. "Momma joining us at school has enabled me to meet and befriend many wonderful students and learn about their lives."

Momma has helped to bring joy into the lives of the students, faculty and staff of Lenape Valley, and hopefully will continue to do so for years to come.

Tracking a day in the life of an LVR baseball player

By: Andrew Gunther

A day in the life of a baseball player — it all starts with waking up in the morning for school at 6:30 A.M. Once woken up, I carry out my daily routine of showering, brushing my teeth and packing my backpack before I leave. I also have to make sure that my drawstring bag is packed with my baseball apparel for after school.

Once everything is taken care of, I head off to school and begin the day. Like always, I go to class and learn something new — just like a typical school day! When school ends, I head to the boys' locker room to get changed for baseball. In the case where we have practice, I put on baseball pants, a hat, and a respectable shirt, based on the weather outside. However, if I have a game, the routine is different.

On game day, I obviously have

more formal attire: baseball pants, my team jersey, my hat and all the other needed apparel. You cannot play a game unless you have on the appropriate team uniform. There are no exceptions to this rule!

After getting dressed, it is time to look at the bulletin board to figure out if I have a "job" this week. A job for baseball means being in charge, being responsible, for the following items needed for games: baseballs, water, med kits and helmets. After determining my status that day, I then go into the baseball locker room to grab my baseball bag and cleats. Finally, I head outside the school to wait for the rest of the team.

Once outside, I either wait for the bus, if we have an away game, or head up to the field where the girls' soccer team usually plays for warm-ups. In the case where we are the home team for a scheduled game, I would go to the upper field, put on my cleats, and help set-up for batting prac-

tice. Then we take batting practice, warm up our arms by tossing the ball to one another, and do some infield/outfield drills before the game starts.

Games normally start around 4:00 and can end as late as 6:45. Once the game is over, Coach talks to us about the day's performance; then we are sent off to clean up the dugout, if it's a home game, or head back to the school bus. Arriving back at the school, I change in the locker room, put my baseball stuff away, grab my backpack and go home.

Arriving home may be as early as 6:45 or as late as 8:00. Now that I am home, I put my stuff away, clean myself up and get ready for dinner. After having dinner, I either do any necessary homework/schoolwork that needs to be done or distract myself with leisurely activities until I fall asleep. Once I go to bed, the entire process will start over again the very next day.

Spring sports updates and current records

By: Staff

Believe it or not, despite the crazy weather, athletes participating in spring sports at LVR continue to persevere! Neither rain, no snow, nor rain, nor cold, nor rain is keeping them from their assigned tasks. Here is an update on the current spring sports teams' accomplishments.

Golf:

The varsity team, captained by Jack Van Dyke & James Parrish are currently sporting a record of 5 - 11. The five wins match both the win total from the 2016 season and, as such, ties with the most wins in more than a decade.

A total of 11 players have shot their career personal best rounds in competition in 2019. Senior Van Dyke shot a total of three state qualifying rounds so far, including two rounds of 39 each, versus Walkkill and High Point.

More than 8 matches have been decided by 10 shots or less. The lowest team combined score was a 176 vs. Jefferson at Farmstead Lake View.

Boys Lacrosse:

The varsity lacrosse team is currently sitting in 6th

seed in the states with a record of 10 - 6. Sophomore Drew Togno scored his 100th goal of the season. Not to be outdone, senior Liam Cherry posted his 500th career ground ball. The team now has over 100 wins to its name!

Standings Updates

Tennis:	Varsity	13 - 3
	JV	6 - 1
Softball:	Varsity	14 - 6
	JV	12 - 0
Baseball:	Varsity	8 - 10
Track & Field:	Varsity ~ Girls	3 - 6
	~ Boys	1 - 8

(Records are from 5/15/19)