

the needed items incrementally. Parts for old school buses are expensive and hard to find.

Pfaff said the board has been saving money for so long that they find it hard to spend it. The district has \$6 million in reserves. Pfaff proposed spending \$300,000 on three new buses.

The board approved a restoration of lost steps retroactive to the start of the 2017-18 school year and the purchase of three buses from reserves. The cost of the compensation adjustment will be about \$650,000 per year, to be covered by increased enrollment and state funding.

Online high school update

Executive Director of Secondary Learning Services Lori Benton, Palmer Ridge Assistant Principal Kim Sandoval, and Lewis-Palmer High School Assistant Principal Bridget O'Connor reported that students are already benefitting from the online high school program.

Three full-time students (six to seven classes) and 28 part-time students (two to five classes) participate in the program. The provider of the classes is Fuel Education.

Students are allowed to attend classes online for two weeks to determine whether this is an appropriate fit for their needs before committing to it.

The online high school is useful for students who are homebound, those with family issues or mental health problems, and those who are competitive athletes who have conflicts in their schedules.

The district is now hiring classes, and each class is only offered at a specific time. The hope is that some district teachers can develop online courses.

The courses are rigorous, and the pace is difficult for some. The cost per course is \$175 plus a teacher fee.

The course is updated every night to give students and parents an idea of how they are doing.

The online high school is open to every student. If they fall behind, the district can request that the course be offered again.

Superintendent's update Brofft shared the agenda for a board retreat scheduled for December, which would involve the newly elected director and a discussion led by Dr. Martin Carcasson explaining the process of public deliberation.

She reminded the board that, although the election will be in November, it often takes three weeks for results to be certified. For that reason, the new member of the board cannot be sworn in until after the November meeting.

Brofft said that new forms for volunteers and new background checks are being formulated in keeping with the new School Safety Act, also known as the Claire Davis Act. She said that the act deprives schools of protection from lawsuits unless schools show reasonable care in protecting the safety of students. The act includes incidents in schools and at school-sponsored events. For this reason, the district will conduct more rigorous background checks.

Brofft also reported that a recent parent survey found that 95 percent of parents were satisfied with district special education services.

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third

Thursday of each month at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Nov. 16.

Harriet Halbig can be contacted at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

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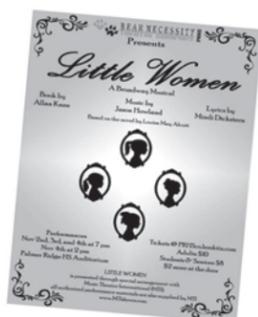
High School Fall Musicals

by Jonathan Silva,
 Palmer Ridge High School junior

Palmer Ridge High School's Bear Necessity Theatre Company and Lewis-Palmer High School's Drama Club are busy preparing their fall musicals.

The Drama Club of Lewis-Palmer High School will perform The Addams Family "based off of the Broadway interpretation with some Lewis-Palmer special twists," asserts Nicky Selitch, LPHS junior. "In this musical, I have an ancestor role [a chorus role]. The cool thing about most chorus roles in [Lewis-Palmer] musicals is that you get to write a back story about your chorus member and you can — if they are not written in the script — make up a completely new character. It is a very chorus-heavy musical."

Bear Necessity Theatre is producing Little Women



"based off the Broadway musical starring Sutton Foster," explains Jackson Hurford-Reynolds, a senior at Palmer Ridge. Jackson earned the part of Laurie, a leading male role, after auditioning for the musical. "[Ever] since I did this show freshman year [playing the roles of Mr. Davis and Ned Moffat in the Academy of Community Theater's Fall 2014 production of Little Women], Laurie became one of my dream roles to play," states Jackson. "I am just pleased that I got to start off my high school [theater] career with Little Women and end it with Little Women."

Performances of The Addam's Family occur October 26-28 at 7:00 p.m. at Lewis-Palmer High School. There will be a 2:00 matinee on October 28. Little Women runs November 2-4 at 7:00 p.m. at Palmer Ridge High School and also has a matinee on November 4 at 2:00 p.m. All shows are open to the public.



Fall 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

LPSD Upcoming Events

- November 5:** Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 6:** pK-6 Grade — No Classes
- November 8:** 2-Hour Delayed Start/PLC Day
- November 13:** Screenagers, Palmer Ridge High School, 5:30 p.m.
- November 16:** Board of Education Meeting, Admin Building, 6 p.m.
- November 20-24:** District Closed — No Classes



Teacher Spotlight: Jeff Reinkensmeyer

Jeff Reinkensmeyer, known as either Mr. R or The Pied Piper of Science, is in his second year of teaching 7th grade science at Lewis-Palmer Middle School. Jeff has taught middle school science for over 28 years, receiving his degree

in Geology from Ohio State University and a MS Science Education from National-Louis University. He moved to Colorado and received his teaching certification at Colorado State University.

Mr. R coaches football and assists with the LPMS

Science Olympiad teams. Olympiad teams are made up of 15 students. Training begins in October and the season ends with the state, regional, and national finals in April. The Olympiad has three components: knowledge, processes, and building. LPMS takes four teams to regionals and has placed in the top 10 in the state. Jeff's been involved with the Science Olympiad for over nine years.

His students also participate in Operation Montserrat, a program that challenges students to apply science and math skills to a simulated volcano eruption. Jeff received a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) grant which provided his students with spheros (orbs that students code to performs tasks).

Jeff worked in another district in Colorado prior to working in LPSD. He says that he had "a great opportunity to move to one of the best districts in the state" and he took it. He claims that LPSD is the best school district that he has ever worked with. He loves the common sense approaches and how LPSD puts kids first. He uses inquiry-based authentic learning in the classroom. One of the best parts of his day is getting high 5s in the hallways of LPMS.

When he's not teaching or coaching, Mr. R might be found hiking Philmont, fly fishing, kayaking, surveying in Montana and Utah, working on summer geology projects, watching his son play college football or his daughter play high school volleyball.