



Spring 2015

Learning outside the classroom

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION

BY KRISTIE MCCAWE

A college preparatory boarding school is, as its name suggests, a place to prepare students for college. Of course academic success is a major part of that preparedness, but another equally important part is the development of life skills. These are the skills that will allow success in college, and beyond, to happen. The skills that are essential to building, navigating, and living successful and meaningful lives. Taking personal responsibility, learning to manage emotions, developing social awareness, and practicing personal wellness are examples of life skills that are important for all people and that are developed and strengthened at The Leelanau School.

In keeping with the school's overarching philosophy of there being so many ways to learn, our school also has

an integrated life skills program which addresses support of students' needs in a comprehensive wellness model which is designed to be developmentally appropriate and effective for our students' lives both now and in their futures!

For each student at The Leelanau School, life skills are taught through everything they do. On an individual level, students complete a residential life curriculum, which focuses on the development of executive function, including time management, organization, self-care, problem solving, and conflict resolution. At a grade level, students participate in a year-long Council program—developed out of a Native American tradition of group communication—by class, which commences with exploratory week and continues throughout the school year

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Life skills in action

A recent Leelanau grad's testimonial

BY J.D. FRILEY

At The Leelanau School, we work with the "whole student" and connect all aspects of a student's life to help them succeed. We spend countless hours during study hall reinforcing why & how to use a planner, and tactfully share (whenever necessary) how better hygiene can increase social acceptance. Sometimes these lessons take months or years to sink in and many relapses often occur. Internalization (making habit) only comes from consistency and it can take a variety of attempts to find ways these lessons will resonate with each student.

A few weeks into college, one of our graduates from the class of 2014 shared via Facebook his gratitude for the Life Skills lessons that he had learned at Leelanau. He wanted us to know that his transition to college was going quite smoothly in large part due to the life skills instruction and support he received at The Leelanau School.

He shared that our expectations, reminders and reinforcements which seemed so annoying to him at the time had actual value! The habits that he adopted, including using a planner and file folders to organize himself proved to be winning strategies at college. He felt he was well ahead of the students who hadn't attended boarding schools because he had learned these skills at Leelanau. He even admitted that living in a small dorm with a stranger wasn't nearly as stressful because he had learned how to compromise, respect others, and to keep his space neat and tidy.

We love to hear that these lessons eventually make sense and pay off! 🍀



UPCOMING TOWNHALL MEETING TOPICS

*Dangers of Energy Drinks
AND
Fact From Fiction:
Addiction and the Teenage Brain*

ALUMNI NEWS AND EVENTS

BY ROB KARNER



Over the past several months in my new role, I have had some great conversations with many of you, all the while gathering contact information, including emails and phone numbers, along with hearing about your successes since leaving Leelanau. My dream is to have each and every alumnus' information be current in our alumni records so we can continue connecting regarding this great school.

Another way to reconnect is by filling in our form on the Leelanau.Org website and being one of our "Featured Alums." Through the Alumni page on the website, we will highlight different alumni, hopefully from each decade, and give people a glimpse of what makes Leelanau School alumni so remarkable. Check back regularly for news of your classmates and from other eras.

Plans are underway for our Alumni Reunion June 19-21. This year's reunion will be held at the school with the main event being the Saturday evening "Skipper's Banquet". Friday's offerings will include evening time for informal gatherings in Glen Arbor at Boone Docks with live music, food, and spirits. Friday ends with the opportunity to participate with Norm Wheeler and his fellow bards in the Beach Bards Bonfire on the school's beach.

Saturday morning will feature a Leelanau brunch in the morning, nature activities in the afternoon (hiking, biking, canoeing, tennis, and hitting the beach), and the banquet in the evening. The "Skipper's Banquet" will feature an update about the school, a wonderful feast, awards, a raffle for unique Leelanau-related items, an alumni slide show, and sharing stories about the "good ole days".

The class agents for each class have been encouraged to reach out to their classmates and promote attendance at the reunion. So to get the latest information about who is coming, the class agent should be your best way to become informed.

Regarding class agents, there still are some vacancies so if you are interested in becoming a class agent, or want to help a class agent, please contact me.

Alumni gatherings are a great way to have mini reunions in geographical locations that are close for the alums to gather. Our most recent alumni gathering was in Traverse City where we had a nice group of alums participate. If you would like to host an alumni gathering in your city, please let me know and we can help you organize it. Cities that seem to be logical choices based on our alumni demographics include Chicago, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Salt Lake City.

I hope to see you at the June 19-21 reunion in Glen Arbor! ●

Leelanau Alumni Reunion

June 19-21, 2015

LEELANAU SCHOOL

Established in 1929

Schedule of Events

Friday, June 19

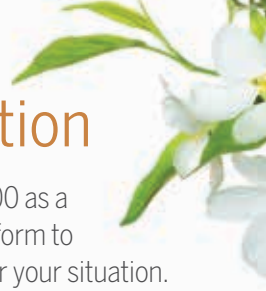
- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 2 PM to 5 PM | Registration and Check In |
| 5 PM to 9 PM | Food/Beverage/
Live Music—Boone Docks |
| 9 PM to 10 PM | Beach Bards Bonfire
—Leelanau School Beach |

Saturday, June 20

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8 AM to 10 AM | Continental Breakfast —Leelanau School Dining Hall |
| 10 AM to Noon | Brunch—Leelanau School Dining Hall |
| 1 PM to 5 PM | Guided Nature Hikes (free)/ Tennis Tournament (free)/ Kayaking /Bicycling via Crystal River Outfitters (for a fee) |
| 5:30 PM | Reception at Leelanau School Dining Hall |
| 6:15 PM to 8 PM | "Skipper's Banquet" at Leelanau School Dining Hall |
| 8 PM to 9 PM | Alumni Slide Show and Story Telling in Dining Hall |

Sunday, June 21

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 9 AM to Noon | Continental Breakfast/Check Out/Safe Travels |
|--------------|--|



Class Agent List

as of February, 2015

Class Agents are being sought for most years prior to 1975 and there are several openings for agents from 1977 on. Please contact Rob Karner at 231.334.5831 or rkarner@leelanau.org

Class Agent	Class	Class Agent	Class
TBA	1975	Chris Shoemaker	1995
Jonathan Handley	1976	TBA	1996
Laura King-Moore	1977	Julia Wheeler	1997
John Bouwkamp	1978	Emily McGuire	1998
Susan Fryling Karman	1979	TBA	1999
TBA	1980	Patricia Smith	2000
Julia Hand Blyveis	1981	Matt & Paul Chalup	2001
Gretchen Knoblock	1982	Maleah Gluck	2002
Jack Handy	1983	Rae Lewis	2003
Mary Beth Oddy	1984	Nellie Rouseau	2004
Annette Richmond	1985	Kelli Daly	2005
Richard Taylor	1986	Lexy Carl	2006
Ted Stair	1987	Natalie Stow	2007
Catherine Graham	1988	Ashley Walton	2008
Laine Goodman	1989	Alissa Norris	2009
Meagan Darlington	1990	Max Williams	2010
Dave Coleman	1991	Cameron Thompson	2011
Don Marks	1992	Sara Wehner	2012
Virginia Budinger Kruger	1993	Grace Adams	2013
TBA	1994	Ashley Disler	2014

2015 Alumni Registration

The best way to register is by calling 231-334-5800 as a range of options exist. However, you can use this form to serve as your registration if these options work for your situation.

Please return via mail or fax to 231-334-5898. Dorm rooms are available on a first come, first served basis. Other lodging is available throughout the area and we suggest you book early as summer lodging fills up fast in our area. The deadline to register for lodging is June 10.

FULL PACKAGE:

- _____ Full Weekend Package per person
—On Campus meals, Dorm (2 nights)..... \$75
- _____ Full Weekend Package per person
—On Campus meals, Cabin (2 nights)..... \$55
- _____ Full Weekend Add Spouse/Partner
(Same dorm room)..... \$50

SATURDAY ONLY PLAN: PER PERSON

- _____ Package #1 Alumni Dinner, Dorm (1 night) \$55
- _____ Package #2 Alumni Dinner, Cabin*
(1 night) * *byo bedding*..... \$45

MEALS ONLY PLAN: PER PERSON (12 & under Free)

- _____ Saturday Brunch..... \$10
- _____ Saturday Banquet \$30

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Guest Names: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____
(please include mobile phone that we can reach you on while on campus)

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____

Registration is also available online at leelanau.org/alumni/events

The Leelanau School is a member of the Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce. If you are booking lodging for your next visit, be sure to mention that you are coming to visit the school and you may qualify for a discount!

www.visitglenarbor.com/places-to-stay/

LEELANAU SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bob McNutt, Class of '55

A message from the Board Chairman



Abraham Lincoln once said, "The best way to predict our future is to create it."

This year, the board and staff have been focused on Leelanau's future by creating a long term path toward sustainability. Together with our board and President, Matt Ralston, his administrative team and the entire staff, we have adopted a plan for sustainability which includes reasonable growth in admissions enrollment, maintaining a high retention rate through careful selection of the right students, and improved marketing strategies.

These tactics, combined with our quality academic and residence life programs, with strong donor support are helping The Leelanau School see a very bright future as sustainable and as a leader in strength-based experiential education.

You will be pleased to hear that through careful budgeting, reduced expenses and generous donor support we have reduced our debt by \$500K in the past year and we are focusing on finishing another year with a balanced budget.

You will also be pleased to know that we have received significantly more applications for next school year (2015-16) than we have had in any recent years by this point in the year.

The Leelanau Board of Trustees was enhanced by the recent additions of Class of 1958 alumna, Bill Winslow of Battle Creek and recent past parent, Gregory Wahl of Sterling, Illinois. Both have brought their business acumen along with tremendous energy and commitment toward our mission. We are very thankful to them and their families for their outstanding contributions in time and financial support.

I would like to make sure you pay attention to our Development Director's report on the \$4 million LeelaNOW Campaign on page 11. We are making great progress on our goals thanks to the generous support of 450+ donors in the past 2 years and the goal is within our reach. We are truly grateful to each and every one of you for your commitment to sustaining Leelanau today and for decades to come.

Our work continues as we are tireless in our efforts to make The Leelanau School successful in every way possible. We have so many great students, great parents, great alumni, and so many reasons to build a future which is stable today and for future generations.

Sincerely,
Bob McNutt
Chairman, Board of Trustees ●

Robert McNutt, '55, Board
Chairman
Retired Business Owner
Birmingham, MI

Todd Avis, Vice Chair
Leelanau Education Group
Empire, MI

Jeanne Blondia, Treasurer
Stryker Corp.
Kalamazoo, MI

Sue Miller, '68, Secretary
Retired Educator/Administrator
Lake Leelanau, MI

Jan Karman Cook, '83
Attorney/Homemaker
Rocky River, OH

Eileen Kamerick
Healthcare Executive
Chicago, IL

Patricia J. Richards, '49
Retired Educator
Traverse City, MI

Howard Smith
CEO, Wilson Bohannen Corp.
Marion, OH

Janet Condon Whiting, '91
Restaurant Owner
Frankfort, MI

William Winslow, '58
Retired Business Executive,
Battle Creek, MI

Greg Wahl
CEO, Wahl Corporation,
Sterling, IL

Trustee Emeritus
Dr. Charles E. Olson, Jr., '48
Ann Arbor, MI

Admissions Update

from Maleah Gluck, Admissions Director



Hello Everyone!

Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, our campus has been an environment filled with passionate learners and phenomenal teachers who are bringing creativity, excitement, and knowledge inside and outside of the classroom. It is a marvelous time to be a part of The Leelanau School! There is much excitement surrounding our current students and we are looking forward to accepting ideal new students in the spring semester and the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

As we head into our spring semester the admissions office is looking forward to the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

This year we have seen a significant increase in the number of applications, younger student applicants, higher re-enrollment than the past five years, and a huge interest from educational consultants to visit this impressive school!

This spring semester the admissions office will be attending multiple school fairs, and holding events on campus for middle school and potential students to attend. We are excited to announce that we have joined with CKC tours, Cranbrook, and other area schools to host educational consultant visits on our campus. We are excited for the consultants to meet our community, experience our unique learning approach through our invigorating classes/activities, and see all that Leelanau has to offer!

It is a great time to visit The Leelanau School and see the exciting new changes, and how a unique educational opportunity can make a big difference! GO LEELANAU!

Maleah Gluck, '02

Director of Admissions and Financial Aid ●

If you need additional information please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Admissions Maleah Gluck at mgluck@leelanau.org or 231.334.5824

“It is a marvelous time to be a part of The Leelanau School.” —MALEAH GLUCK



TESTIMONIALS

“Your school is impressive, not just the majestic setting of your campus, but the dedicated students and inspiring teachers. I knew that if I visited, that I would be in a much stronger position to encourage appropriate candidates to head your way, and that is certainly the case now.”

Drew Miller
Director of Admission
Cranbrook Schools

Educational Consultants:

“They loved the school!!! They are so happy and I really am thrilled to see they found a place he really felt at home. They were very impressed. Keep up with the outstanding work.”

“Leelanau sounds like it is really rocking it—they are lucky to have Maleah doing their Admissions. Thanks for all your help with and care for my client, he is turning back into himself.”

Parents:

“I am so very grateful to you and the whole Leelanau community. I am so happy my son has all of you and that you all know him so well. I looked at his school schedule and am so happy he has many of the same teachers, he truly benefits from the close relationships you all foster at Leelanau. I am happy he has a place where he can thrive AND I am so happy there is a school that fits my kid so very well.”

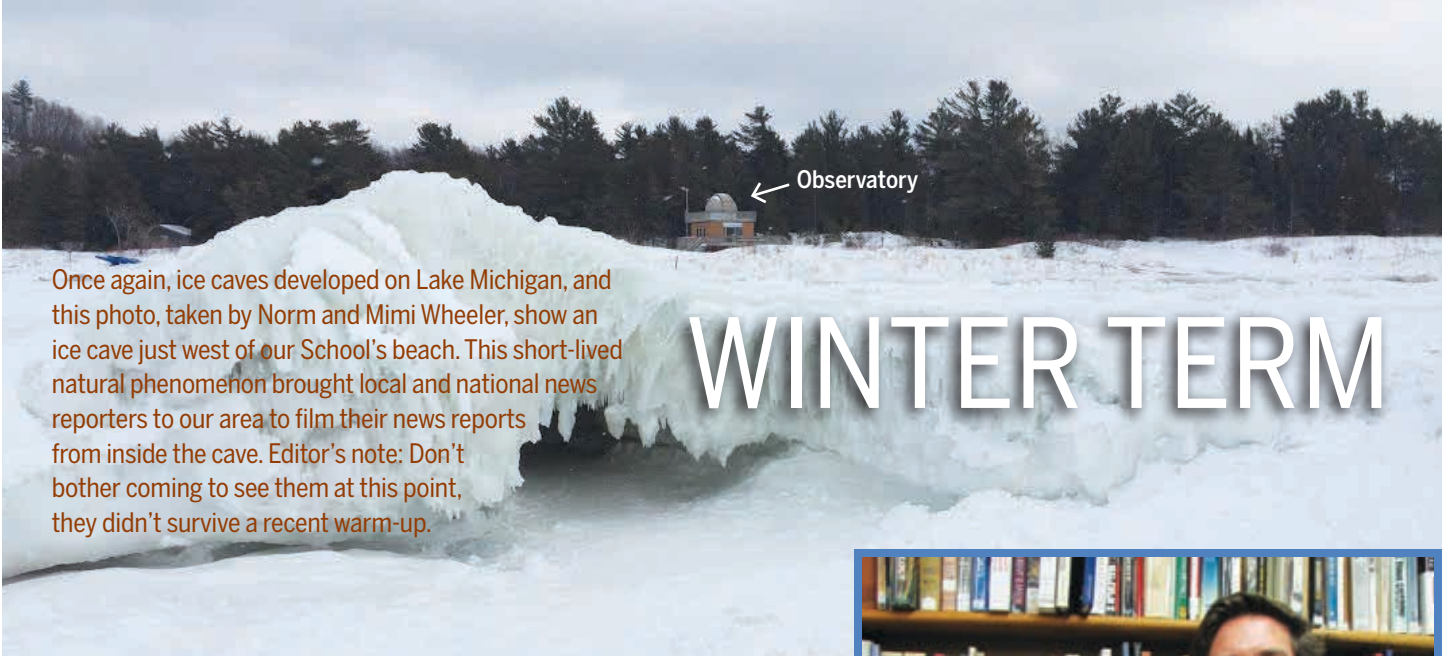
“After ‘years’ of watching our son in school struggling and finding school very difficult, we thought it odd that he has three months at Leelanau and now everything is easy for him, just didn’t sound right. Now I know it is!! Thank goodness he finally loves school and is seeing such success. I can’t tell you how many people I’ve told about Leelanau.”



Birds & Tracking



Zen & The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance



← Observatory

Once again, ice caves developed on Lake Michigan, and this photo, taken by Norm and Mimi Wheeler, show an ice cave just west of our School's beach. This short-lived natural phenomenon brought local and national news reporters to our area to film their news reports from inside the cave. Editor's note: Don't bother coming to see them at this point, they didn't survive a recent warm-up.

WINTER TERM



The Leelanau School thanks The State Theater for providing enough tickets for our school to attend the Motown Legends Martin Luther King Celebration on January 19, 2015. It was a great evening!



Erin Newcomer, left, pictured with Adam Courturier, had her short essay published in Traverse City's Family's First Monthly Magazine.



Arch of Constantine

ITALY TRIP



Studying Venician Lace



Relaxing over Espresso

CLASSES AND EVENTS



Composition Class Final Performances



Decoy Carving Final Projects

Learning outside the classroom

continued from page 1

with distinct focuses for each grade level. And as a whole school, students work together during Townhall meetings, which cover topics such as community awareness and wellness and are facilitated by staff, as well as outside speakers who are brought in to discuss



Becca Dymond, Coordinator of Personal Growth and Development

topics in a fun and engaging fashion.

“At The Leelanau School, we intentionally don’t define our classrooms by four walls. Our residence houses, our recreational times, our social times, weekend student activities, our meals, and even evenings are all learning opportunities. Our residential faculty

monitor the social and emotional well-being of our students as well as working with them on relevant life skills to help them grow, learn and prosper, as not only citizens on our campus, but future citizens of the world,” says JD Friley, Director of Student Services.

Life skills are developed on a daily basis, just living life at Leelanau. Learning to live in residential houses with new people, getting themselves to meals, classes, and other commitments on time; these are all things that serve our students well after their time spent at school. Becca Dymond, Coordinator of Personal Growth and Development, also adds that “When students face difficulty mastering any of the life skills, they are supported by the house parents as they work one on one to use the skills they already know to develop new strategies.”

A boarding school offers a unique environment which intrinsically pushes young people to prepare for next steps in life, allowing them to be confident, and successful individuals. Leelanau’s Life Skills Education is built into that environment and provides our students with the ability to not only cope with, but to face straight on, all the stresses and challenges of daily life and allows them to be the best that they can be during their time spent at Leelanau, in college, and throughout life. ●

College Acceptances as of the end of February 2015:

Lake Superior State University
Michigan Technological University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Lynn University
The College of Wooster
Eckerd College
Columbia College Chicago
Daytona State College
Webster University
The Citadel
Valparaiso University
Central Michigan University
Albion College
Aquinas College
Northern Michigan University
Oakland University
Illinois Wesleyan University
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Woodbury University
Santa Fe University of Art & Design
Juniata College
Dominican University
Western Michigan University
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Elmhurst College
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Wingate University

Congratulations!

Love Leelanau?

Complete a Boarding School Review BY KRISTIE MCCAWE

Attention Alumni and Parents—When’s the last time you’ve had homework?

Show your love for The Leelanau School by contributing something valuable that only alumni or a parent of an alumnus of our special school can give. And the best part is—it’s free! All you need to do is pop onto your computer and visit one (or all, for extra credit!) of the websites listed here and complete a review of The Leelanau School.

Positive reviews speak loudly to perspective students and their parents. Only you have the gift

of experience that can help solidify a potential student’s choice to attend our school, so they can have the same great high school experience!

www.boardingschoolreview.com

www.privateschoolreview.com

www.admissionsquest.com

www.teenlife.com

www.schoolinks.com

ON STAGE 4 KIDS

Bringing Their Musical Talents to Leelanau

BY DEAN DAUPHINAIS

The Leelanau School is a unique place that gives its students special opportunities. Whether it's studying biology on location at beautiful Glen Lake, or having English class on the beach, things happen at our school that are truly extraordinary. One of those things happened on Friday, February 20.

At a fabulous school assembly, the Leelanau community was treated to a performance by a new music education project called On Stage 4 Kids. This program brings some of the top musicians and songwriters in Michigan to elementary, middle, and high schools across the state.

The goal of On Stage 4 Kids is to educate K-12 students about the songwriting, history, and culture of American music. During their programs, a rotating trio of On Stage 4 Kids musicians not only performs traditional folk, blues, rock, and Americana music; they also talk to the students about their lives as working musicians and the joy of music.

For their performance at Leelanau, we were privileged to have three amazing On Stage 4 Kids musicians grace us with their presence: World renowned percussionist Mike Shimmin (percussion & vocals); blues and roots master Mike Lynch (keyboards and accordion); and Traverse City's Joshua Davis (guitars & vocals), one of the founding members of On Stage 4 Kids. This trio of incredibly talented Michigan musicians has appeared together at some of the top festivals and performing arts centers in the Midwest, and Joshua Davis might just be on his way to stardom.

On Monday, February 23, Davis gave an absolutely stunning performance during the blind auditions on

the Season 8 premiere of NBC-TV's singing competition show, *The Voice*. His stunning rendition of "I Shall Be Released," a Bob Dylan composition first performed by The Band, got two judges to turn their chairs around, and Joshua chose to go with country singer Blake Shelton's team. Among Shelton's compliments to Davis: "It's crazy the way that you've developed this sound. It's so different than anything else we've seen come across this stage, dude. I'd love to have the chance to work with you." (You can



see Joshua's performance on *The Voice* at this link: <http://www.nbc.com/the-voice/video/joshua-davis-blind-audition-i-shall-be-released/2848733>)

The On Stage 4 Kids performance combined live music, storytelling, and humor. In keeping with the Leelanau School's experiential learning theme, students also got involved by singing along, asking questions, and performing with the band. From start to finish, the assembly was nothing short of spectacular.

Our sincere thanks go out to Joshua Davis, Mike Lynch, Mike Shimmin, and the entire On Stage 4 Kids organization for dropping by our school and sharing their remarkable talents with us. ●



Matt Ralston, Headmaster

A Letter from Matt

Last week, I was asked by a local resident “what kind of parent sends their child away to school?” I have, as you might guess, answered this question many times and I see it as an opportunity to talk about Leelanau as well as broaden others’ perspectives on options for secondary education. My short answer goes like this: Parents will often look at boarding school as an option because they find that they provide a better learning environment for their child or meet the needs of their child better than any of their local options. Often this prompts questions and

“... choosing to send your son or daughter to boarding school is not about sending them away; no parent finds that to be an easy decision, but is rather an investment in their child’s future.

further discussion and other times it seems to be sufficient for the person asking. My hope and intention is that the person with whom I’m speaking leaves knowing that choosing to send your son or daughter to boarding school is not about sending them away; no parent finds that to be an easy decision, but is rather an investment in their child’s future.

What I’d like to say to them is that the parents who send their child to boarding school are the ones who understand that there is no better environment in which to learn (or teach) discipline, accountability, compassion, commitment and the benefits of hard work.

Students who are surrounded by an energetic, engaging, dynamic faculty are encouraged to learn and live in a manner, which is in conflict with the increasingly impersonal and increasingly fragmented nature of our “busy” society. This developing life style includes being vulnerable to and with others, learning to measure a person’s

value on actions rather than demographics or cultural norms, offering a helping hand before it is asked for, realizing the depth and range of one’s actions, and commitment to a very real community—critical components of a meaningful and purposeful life.

As beneficial and powerful as these lessons of life that can be learned in a caring student centered school are, we are still schools and a school’s strength is often measured (externally, at least) by its academic curriculum. I believe strongly in a liberal arts education. Students need a broad and solid foundation on which to build. I believe that students need to be kids first—our focus should be to maintain and protect their natural curiosity for their world and provide them with a healthy environment and the skills to follow their curiosity and passion—other critical components of a meaningful and purposeful life.

We work hard every day to be this school for our students. Your gifts, visits, relationships with each other, even your shared memories support us in this work. Thank you for your commitment to Leelanau, our students and our future students.

I wonder how the woman who asked me the question last week would have responded to my longer answer—would she have walked away shaking her head or would she have asked for a stack of applications to share with others she meets? ●



LEELA *now*
CAMPAIGN UPDATE

OVERALL CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$4 MILLION



Since our Campaign was announced in November 2013, we have raised nearly \$3 million. As of 2/22/2015 we have \$2,986,650 in cash and pledges from 466 donors.

We welcome gifts of all sizes and hope you all know what an important gift you make when you give to education.

ALUMNI
\$462,000

CURRENT & PAST PARENTS / FAMILIES
\$2,300,000

COMMUNITY, STAFF & FACULTY
\$78,000

By making a donation to the LeelaNow Campaign for The Leelanau School, you are doing all of the following:

- **Helping our school operate.** Tuition alone does not cover the expenses that relate to operating our school. We require an average of \$450,000 additional fund-raised dollars each year to stay “in the black” for our budget.
- **Helping fund education** for a student who might not otherwise be able to attend Leelanau School because we offer scholarship support worth approximately \$300,000 annually.
- **Helping reduce our debt,** thus providing economic stability for our future and the region which we impact. We have reduced our debt by \$500,000 in the past year.
- **Helping provide a safe environment** through having the necessary upgrades like a new well, updates and repairs to vehicles, buildings, and equipment (like a new AED—see story below) for our students and our community who use our campus.

I ♥ Pickleball!

and so they spearheaded an effort to fund the purchase an additional AED for the gym. The fundraising netted \$850 and other gifts and grants will have this important equipment purchased and available in the gym soon.

There is a group of dedicated pickleball players who meet in our school gym three times a week to keep active throughout the fall and winter. Last fall, they realized the closest AED was few buildings away,



The Leelanau School
One Old Homestead Road
Glen Arbor, MI 49636

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Traverse City, M
Permit #568

Please watch and share
**School video now
viewable**

The Leelanau School is very proud to present a video project we've been producing for many months. This beautiful video presents all the things that make The Leelanau School special; how it has impacted so many lives for the better, and how the school can continue to provide opportunities to students and their families.

If you enjoy the video, and agree that The Leelanau School offers tremendous opportunity for students, please consider sharing with your network or friends that might benefit from all that The Leelanau School has to offer.

The easiest way to view and share is to Like Us on Facebook. But you can also watch the video from the homepage of our website at www.leelanau.org

In the first two weeks since our video went live it was viewed 6,500 times.

