



## Celebrating Christmas in Ransomville

A large crowd braved the snow last Sunday and lined up on both sides of Ransomville Road to watch the Ransomville Festival's Christmas Parade as it made its way from the library to the center of the hamlet. The theme of the parade was gingerbread men, with the Ransomville Garden Club creating gingerbread house floats, followed by a group of children with signboards telling their story about the gingerbread men. The tail end of the parade featured the one visitor kids were waiting for: Santa Claus. (Photos by Wayne Peters)

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## 'In the Loop': A busy month at Lewiston-Porter

**BY DANIELLE MULLEN**  
 President, Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

November came and went quickly at Lewiston-Porter. Here are some highlights from the past month and some upcoming events to look forward to.

•At the November board meeting, Brian Hall and students from the eighth grade Innovation Experience offered a presentation on what the program is doing this year. The eighth grade Innovation Experience is a unique program that helps expand students' creative thinking and public speaking skills while working collaboratively within Lew-Port Middle School. Interested students apply early in the school year to be able to participate.

This year, students are focusing on increasing the extracurricular activities offered in the middle school and also increasing the awareness of what is offered to students. The Innovation Experience students surveyed middle school students to gain an understanding of what is of interest to them. Helping students find opportunities that are of interest to them and helping foster participation will ultimately lead to more connection to the school as whole. This year's project is truly aiming to deepen the connection between the students and the school.

•On Wednesday, the middle school held its first winter concert with performances by the seventh and eighth grade ensembles. The high school was expected to hold its "Celebration of Champions" event Thursday to celebrate students on the high honor roll for the first quarter marking period. A total of 205 students in the high school earned a 95% or higher av-

erage for the first 10 weeks.

December is always a busy month, with many things to look forward to. Winter athletics are now officially underway. After so many fantastic fall season finishes, it will be exciting to follow our winter teams and cheer them on. Check out the Lew-Port Athletic Department's link on the Lew-Port website ([www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com)) for information, or follow them on Twitter!

•The music department continues to be busy with multiple opportunities to showcase the talents of Lew-Port student musicians. Here are some important concert dates on the district's December calendar.

The middle school sixth grade student ensembles perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, in the high school auditorium. The Lew-Port HS student ensembles will stage their annual winter concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, in the high school auditorium. The Intermediate Education Center winter concert, featuring the fifth grade band and fifth grade orchestra, will preform at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, in the IEC auditorium.

•The fine arts department will be in the spotlight this month, as well, as it has an official ribbon-cutting for the new LEVEL gallery in the high school.

This newly remodeled space is located in the mezzanine of the high school. A new gallery beautifully showcases the exceptional artwork of our Lew-Port students. This space will now also be home to the annual district art show, which previously was held at the NAAC.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday,

Dec. 15, prior to the high school music department's winter concert. The gallery will be open to the public during other concerts taking place in the high school, so come check out the work of our amazing artists!

•At the elementary level, students will be once again able to experience (in person) the Scholastic Book Fair and the Merry Moose Holiday Shop – thanks to the volunteers at the PTSA. The Scholastic Book Fair will run in the IEC the week of Dec. 6-10, while the Merry Moose Holiday Shop will run in both elementary buildings on Dec. 16-17. Please keep an eye out for more specific information regarding these events coming home with your children soon.

•The first trimester is officially wrapping up for our elementary students. Hard copy report cards will be sent home with PEC and IEC children for parent/guardian review. Parent-teacher conferences will take place on Dec. 10, districtwide. Conference scheduling sheets have already gone home with the elementary students. For secondary families who are interested in a conference with your children's teachers, please reach out to the MS and HS guidance departments.

### Upcoming

- √ Dec. 10 – Parent/teacher conferences; no attendance, K-12
- √ Dec. 14 – Monthly early release day; secondary students will be dismissed at 1:14 p.m., and elementary students will be dismissed at 2:25 p.m.
- √ Dec. 15 – End of the marking period for secondary students
- √ Dec. 23-Jan. 2, 2022 – Winter recess – no student attendance.

## NT History Museum to host author

The North Tonawanda History Museum invites the public to meet author Rick Falkowski, who will discuss his newest book, "Profiles, Volume II – Historic and Influential People of Western

NY of the early 1900's."

The event will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the museum, 712 Oliver St. Copies of this book will be available for purchase and signing after

the discussion.

This is a free event, but donations to the museum are always appreciated. For more information, contact Executive Director Howard Roeske at 714-233-0554.