



(L to R) Teacher Mr. Dave Gaglione, Co-valedictorian Lanaya Presswood, Co-valedictorian Pranay Rai and West Campus Principal Marty Beckman

8th Graders Move Onward With Blessings

Luther Memorial promoted sixteen 8th graders on Monday, June 3, at a Promotion Chapel Service at our Main Campus. It was a bittersweet evening as teachers and staff said goodbye to a group of students that they have poured love into for many years.

Six of the graduates were Nepalese, the largest number of refugees to graduate in a single class. Sunila Rai and Bachan Pradhan entered LMS in kindergarten unable to speak any English or understand much of what was said to them.

Now Bachan will be in the Honors Academy at Lutheran West and Sunila in an AP track at John Marshall School of Informational Technology in West Park.

In all, six LMS graduates will attend Lutheran West in the fall, including Lanaya Presswood, the co-valedictorian. Lanaya had a rough start at Luther Memorial. She was raised by her grandmother after her mother's death when Lanaya was 3 years old. Because of family and health issues, Lanaya missed many days of school and had to repeat first grade.

"I think that early setback made me stronger. I really pushed myself after that," she says. "Everyone has the ability to grow and to be a better person."

In the future, she plans to own her own business, possibly fashion or beauty related. In her speech at the service she told her classmates to "stay determined in all that you do and don't ever stop learning and growing as a person."

Co-valedictorian Pranay Rai will be attending John Marshall. Computer science is an area that has

Executive Director Chosen for Fellowship Program

Luther Memorial's Executive Director Nicole Levy has been chosen as a 2019-20 Van Lunen Fellow, a year-long transformational learning experience helping heads of school be effective managers.

Founded 13 years ago, the Van Lunen Center at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., is committed to the future of Christian schools by strengthening the skills of executive managers in the areas of governance, funding and financing, human resources, physical resources and marketing. The program is held in three week-long, in-residence sessions and remotely through independent research and projects.

Mrs. Levy was chosen as one of the 24 fellows from the U.S. and Canada to learn from the Van Lunen faculty team, experts and each other, including several other Lutheran principals from Northeast Ohio. "I'm honored and excited to be a part of the Van Lunen program and pray that it will be a blessing to Luther Memorial as we continue to grow and improve," says Mrs. Levy.



LMS Executive Director Mrs. Nicole Levy chosen as a 2019-20 Van Lunen Fellow

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STUDENT PROFILE



From running down the hall and climbing up the wall in kindergarten to proudly walking across the stage at the 8th grade Promotion Service, **Pacifique "Paci" Niraqira** has kept us all on our toes, says Mrs. Levy. He started kindergarten shortly after



arriving with his family in the United States as a refugee from Burundi knowing very few

English words. With a strong desire to learn and some great supporters on his team, Pacifique did very well in school.

All of Luther Memorial's best stories involve Paci. His adventures include bringing a "rare African bird" in his lunchbox - actually a robin that then flew around the cafeteria - and a trip downtown to apply for a job at Sherwin Williams in 4th grade because he was ready to make it on his own. "We are so proud of the intelligent and faithful young man that Pacifique has grown into and can't wait to see what the future holds for him at Lutheran West and beyond," says Mrs. Levy.

At the Promotion Service, Pacifique was chosen to read the class verse, Deut. 31:8, "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

8th Graders Move Onward With Blessings (cont.)

interested Pranay.

"Pranay is a very special student, every teacher's dream. His drive to master every topic taught was incredible. He would often forego his recesses in order to stay and work on homework," says Principal Marty Beckman, West Campus. "His

maturity showed in the way he communicated, choosing his words carefully. He was the rare 14-year-old who was already making plans for his future and how to gain financial security. I truly feel blessed to have known him and to have been his teacher."



Allison Jones and Hannah Fischer, daughters of Board President Walt Fischer, at this year's Gala.

Gala Funds Benefit Arts and Sports

Thank you to all of our 2019 Gala attendees and for those who could not attend but gave generously to our Sports and Wellness Fund-A-Need. We were honored to welcome 160 guests April 28 to Stillwater Place at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo where we recognized our alumni in attendance in our 70th Anniversary school year.

After expenses, our event raised nearly \$34,000, including \$15,000 from the Sports and Wellness Fund-A-Need. These dollars will be spent in the following ways:



- Contract with Talespinner's Children's Theatre to provide a 12-week residency, a creative outlet for our scholars that positively impacts their academic and social development.
- Grow our Sports programming by adding girls volleyball.
- Provide uniforms for cheerleaders and volleyball players.
- Fund tournament admission fees for basketball and track.
- Purchase an additional refrigerator and a new dishwasher in order to contract with a healthier school lunch provider.
- Offer nutrition/cooking classes for students and parents.

School supplies needed for next school year

Please help us stock up on school supplies for next school year. While we appreciate your kindness in donating, because of storage constraints we ask that you limit your donations to just these items: loose leaf paper (wide or college rule), white copy paper, one-subject spiral notebooks (wide or college rule), pencils, ball point pens, Clorox wipes, Purell, tissues and electric pencil sharpeners.

Donations can be dropped off at the school beginning August 12. Please call ahead before you come: 216.749.5300. Arrangement can also be made for pick-up at your church. Please contact Peggy Sexton at 330.256.2242 or development@lmslancers.org.



Romy and Frank Petroff at our Gala in April.

New Teacher Ready for Challenge

Mrs. Romy Petroff will join the teaching staff at LMS for the 2019-20 school year. Mrs. Petroff brings 29 years of teaching experience in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, the last 22 years at the Academy of St. Bartholomew in Middleburg Heights.

“This will be a new adventure for me. I prayed that God would send me where I’m needed,” says Mrs. Petroff. “As I talked with Mrs. Levy, I realized how much these kids need. I feel like I can do some good.”

Mrs. Petroff is the wife of Frank Petroff, head football coach and English teacher at Lutheran West. The couple has been involved in the Lutheran community for eight years about which she says, “We have never felt so welcomed in our lives. Everyone has been wonderful to us.”

Track Program Takes Off

This spring, Lutheran Memorial had six boys and one girl join the Lutheran West Shorthorns track teams, which are open to any Lutheran grade school student. A Lutheran team comprised of students from multiple schools allows the kids to compete at tournaments against much larger middle school programs, like Firelands, Fairview Park and Buckeye. This was the second year LMS had students on the Shorthorn team.

The Shorthorns held their own against formidable opponents, finishing in 5th place out of 12 teams the PAC meet. The 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams were especially strong.

Joe King, former Lutheran West teacher, helps LMS coach Dave Gaglione train the team at the Lutheran West track after school. “It’s a great experience for the kids to be around the Lutheran community. We tour the building and give them a feel for the place. Some of these kids will end up in high school together,” says Mr. King.



Author Lindsay Ward and 3rd graders Christopher and Isabella.

Author Shares Insights and Stories

LMS students welcomed Lindsay Ward, an author/illustrator from Peninsula, Ohio, last month. She shared with them her background and education, where she gets her ideas for her books and her cut paper illustrating techniques. The students were surprised to find out that the publishing process can take two years from conception until her book appears on bookstore shelves. Classes worked on their own dinosaur art and read her series of Dexter T. Rexter books ahead of her visit.

Luther Memorial is so appreciative of Chuck and Sharon Raquet of Messiah Lutheran in Fairview Park for funding Lindsay’s visit.



Some members of the Shorthorn track team with Coach Joe King.

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TEACHER MEMORY...

As I come to the end of my second year at the LMS West Campus I can't help but think how blessed I am to be teaching here. My kindergarten class has been a joy and has come so far since the beginning of the year. However, the one memory that stands out for me is not of my class alone, but of all our students here at West Campus. Our spring concert ended with the whole school singing a medley of the Chapel songs they learned throughout the year. Their joy and excitement was wonderful to see and hear. As they filled the sanctuary with songs praising God, they filled my heart with happiness and great hope for the future. The memory of that evening will stay with me for a long time. *—Mrs. Heather Smith, kindergarten teacher, West Campus*



Kindergarten teacher Heather Smith with some of her students.

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