

Moving from Good to Great by focusing on every child every day.



The cast of Beauty and the Beast rehearses "Human Again" at the January 10 Master Class with Broadway performer Terita Redd.



Brian Siewert and choreographer Theresa Graziano at the December 6 Master Class for Beauty and the Beast.



until they got it right, cautioning them that “the way you prepare yourself in rehearsal is the same way you’ll be on stage.” Ms. Redd also stressed the need for cast members to “tell the story so that the audience understands it” and the need to be “committed to the characters from the beginning to the end.” Regarding the show, Ms. Redd predicted, “You will have a winner. The kids are so talented.”

Master Classes

The *Master Classes* underwritten by the **Lakeshore Excellence Foundation** and the **Frederick S. Upton Foundation** were intended to provide the cast with greater insight into the way performers communicate character and story development as well as a better understanding of singing, acting, and choreography.

Working with top professionals from theaters in Chicago and New York has been an invaluable experience for the cast, both as a group and individually. “It has been hard work,” said Savannah Lents, “but I know it will all pay off the night we first step out on the stage as a well-put-together play, wowing the audience.” Another student remarked, “All the Master Classes are experiences I never even dreamed of having, and it only gets better from here. I know now that this is what I’m going to do for the rest of my life.”

On December 6, three-time Emmy Award winning composer and Lakeshore alumnus Brian Siewert (Class of 1985) not only helped the cast improve their performance of the show’s final song, but also gave advice on making it in “the real world” of performing. He explained the importance

of goal-setting, initiative, and self-confidence. He also used real scripts from *The Guiding Light*, the show for which he is the principal composer, to take students through the process of a cold reading audition. Mr. Siewert explained, “That’s when your casting agent sends you to this place and you have about 10 seconds to go “ummm” and get this character. Can you make it real that fast?”

“He was very funny,” according to Rebecca DePumpo, “but taught us so much. He told us that in life you can’t wait to be picked—you have to give it your all and go for it.” Lisa Hanson found him to be an inspiring role model. “I think the best workshop was with Brian Siewert. It didn’t just teach me how to prepare for our musical, but also for life. He was once a high school kid like us who is now larger than imaginable. His teaching made me realize I can achieve anything.”

On January 10, Broadway performer Terita Redd, from the smash hit *Hairspray*, showed the cast how to prepare a musical. During rehearsal, she offered feedback on how the cast could improve its performance by infusing characters with emotion and personality. She made the cast repeat its efforts

Joel Thompson presented a Stage Combat Master Class on January 22, just as this edition of the Lakeshore Light was being published.

The Master Class series will conclude in the next few weeks. All Lakeshore students and community members are invited to observe internationally-known choreographer Randy Duncan at the February Master Class as he helps the cast bring their dancing to life. Everyone, cast and non-cast alike, will be able to gain insight into the language of dance and how it enhances the overall effect in a musical by becoming inseparable from the acting and singing. Please visit the website www.LakeshoreChoirs.com or call 428-1401 for additional information or to register for the observation session.

Beauty and the Beast will be performed on March 26, 27, and 28. Tickets go on sale March 9. For more information, check the website at www.LakeshoreChoirs.com.

DISNEY’S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019 Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 www.MTIShows.com



Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

Visit the website at: <http://www.l-e-f.org> or email us at LEF@l-e-f.org

LAKESHORE
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Reach Higher!

Lakeshore Distinguished Alumni Award

Do you know of a person who graduated from Lakeshore, Baroda, or Stevensville High School, 10 or more years ago, who demonstrates a high level of achievement in his/her field and has made significant contributions to that field? If so, does this person exhibit leadership, character, and service at work in his/her community or in a civic organization?

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is seeking nominations from you for its third Annual "Lakeshore Distinguished Alumni Award." Applications are available on our web-site www.l-e-f.org. Nominations will be accepted until March 1, 2009. The recipient will be invited to speak briefly on Sunday May 31st, 2009 at the graduation ceremony. If you nominated someone last year please send us an update.

Submit your nomination now!

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation
c/o Lakeshore Public School
Attn: Heidi Roberson
5771 Cleveland Ave., Stevensville, MI 49127

SAVE YOUR OLD SNEAKERS!

Don't throw out those old, smelly, worn-out sneakers lurking in your closets or garages. The high school Assets Advisory Committee will be collecting old athletic shoes for the NIKE Reuse-a-Shoe program again this spring. This is a program where NIKE recycles athletic shoes into a material to make playground surfaces, running tracks, basketball courts and more for kids who need them around the world. The group had great response to this program last year, and hope to double the amount of shoes collected.

They can be any brand and any condition of athletic type shoes....sneakers, soccer shoes, running shoes, etc. There are just three requirements: NO metal cleats, NO dress shoes, and they should not be wet or damp, please. There will be collection boxes throughout the district from mid-April through mid-May. See the next Light for more details. In the meantime, PLEASE SAVE YOUR SNEAKERS!

Save this Date to Tee off for Excellence

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is currently planning their 7th Annual Golf Outing. The event is set for August 10th, so mark your calendars now. The scramble will again be held at Berrien Hills Golf Course with 4-person teams teeing off for 18 holes of golf followed by lunch. Prizes, raffle items, and a good time are promised!

The LEF relies on monies raised at this annual event to fund programs that enhance, enrich, and supplement learning opportunities for students, staff, and community members in the Lakeshore School District. This is LEF's primary fundraiser of the year, so please consider supporting the foundation by playing, sponsoring a hole, volunteering, or making a donation. Registration information will be available in an upcoming Lakeshore Light and at www.l-e-f.org



Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones to Enrichment is a Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF) program created to provide financial assistance to Lakeshore students who want to REACH HIGHER and participate in programs for which they show a passion.

Awards are given out twice a year with new deadlines of November 1st and April 1st of each school year.

Our latest Stepping Stones Award winner from November 1, 2008 is 9th grader Laura D. Laura will use her award to continue taking voice lessons from the Carrie VanDenburgh Voice Studio in St. Joseph. Congratulations, Laura!

Applications are available at each Lakeshore school building or online at www.l-e-f.org. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Armstrong at 428-1717.