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## THE FUTURE IS NOW: VEX Robotics Championship Tournament

The Indian Creek Elementary School gym buzzed with excitement on Saturday, January 21, as all eleven elementary schools in the district geared up to participate in the **annual LTSF-supported VEX Robotics Championship!** Teams of students programmed robots and drove them on fields to compete in a game-based challenge, promoting STEM education and hands-on-learning. The gym was filled with families watching their students compete, and **Lawrence Township alumni** who came back to volunteer their time as judges and tournament hosts.

**Nick Roberts, LN 2018**, enjoyed spending the day volunteering and cheering on the students, including the teams from his former elementary school, Amy Beverland. Nick says, "The LT VEX Robotics tournament was a great time. It was such a joy getting to see the kids enjoying the opportunity and working together as a team to succeed."

**Janette Jackson, LTSF Board Member and LC 1998**, says the excitement from the VEX Robotics students was radiant. She was particularly struck by the students' display of confidence and teamwork as she watched them take pride in their robots and compete



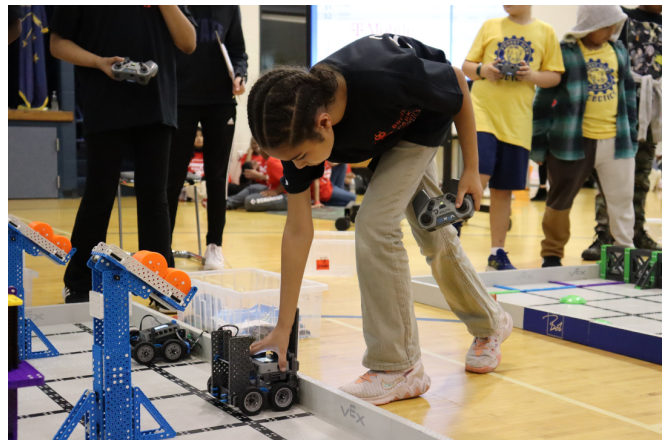
*The Teamwork Champions, teams 96902 A and C of Amy Beverland, pose with Indian Creek Robotics Teacher Bruce Nelson, LTSF Executive Director Jenifer Gibbs, and the MSDLT Board of Education. Photo courtesy of MSDLT.*

with others. Janette adds, "The competition brings out the best in our STEM leaders, which requires them to use their comprehensive and thinking skills. My daughter and I, alongside school staff, families, and guests, were eager to cheer on and celebrate the students and their hard work."

For **LTSF Board Member and LC 1978 alum, Barb Austin**, it was special to see firsthand the amazing opportunities like the VEX Robotics league that LT Schools offers to all students. She says, "To hear elementary students share their passion and knowledge for this STEM-based extracurricular underscores the direct impact donors make through gifts to LTSF which enables the funding for programs that ensure all students have what they need to excel."



*Nick Roberts, LN Class of 2018, with the Amy Beverland VEX Robotics team. Photo courtesy of Nick Roberts.*



## 2023 "the BoB" Golf Outing

Thank you to our Title Sponsor:



FOR MORE INFO: [MSDLTF.ORG](https://MSDLTF.ORG)

This year, over **200 students in grades 2-6** competed in VEX Robotics. Thank you to our generous donor community for making this program possible! As **Bruce Nelson, Robotics and Design Teacher at Indian Creek Elementary** says, "It has been an honor and a privilege to help everyone over the years bring robotics to as many kids as possible- **robots are a powerful tool for learning and it couldn't happen without you.**"

**DONATE TO VEX ROBOTICS**



## REGISTER NOW: 2023 LTSF Celebration & 40th Anniversary

Registration for the highly anticipated 2023 LTSF Celebration is NOW LIVE! Follow the yellow brick road to [Indiana Roof Ballroom](#) on **March 10, 2023**, and join LTSF as we kick off our 40th year of impacting LT students and staff!

Thank you to all of [our sponsors](#) for supporting this year's Celebration! Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For inquiries, please [email](#) or call Angie McIntyre at 317-423-8301.

Can't attend, but want to help LT students on their journey through LT Schools? You can donate [here](#), or by calling our office at 317-423-8300.



*NOTE: Parking vouchers are available for purchase on the registration website. These \$15 vouchers are good for 24 hours starting on March 10. Otherwise, parking rates on the night of the event will be \$6 for the first hour, then \$4 for each additional hour.*

GET TICKETS

## Keeping Up with LT Alumni



The Lawrence Central Bears were paid a special visit on January 21st from recent graduate, **JoAnna Nelson (LC 2022)**! During

Lawrence Township Schools are a family tradition for **Dan Bender, Lawrence North Class of 1997**, and **Pam (Bender) Nixon, Lawrence North Class of 1998**. Their father, Richard Bender, served as a teacher and coach at Belzer and Lawrence Central from 1973 to 2007, and their mother was also an educator. Some of their fondest childhood memories are hearing success stories of their parents' students, sounding the buzzer at LC basketball games, and walking the sidelines during rivalry games at the Hoosier Dome. Dan and Pam both attended Lawrence Township Schools from K-12 and completed their undergraduate degree at Purdue University before entering careers in education. They were fortunate to learn from amazing educators in Lawrence Township; particularly influential were Kennita McGeath, Gordon Mendenhall, Richard Moore, and Hillary Church.

**Dan** has been a teacher, coach, and administrator throughout Indiana. He also spent time with the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning at the University of Indianapolis and has benefited from the opportunity to help a wide variety of urban, rural, and suburban schools implement meaningful curriculum and effective teaching. Dan thoroughly enjoys working with and learning from his students, particularly when they think in new ways and gain confidence reaching for new goals.

**Pam** has spent most of her career as an admission counselor at Butler University and college counselor at Bishop Chatard High School, which provided her with a deeper understanding of the wide variety of post-secondary options for all students. She always knew, however, that her career wouldn't be complete without giving back to the place that had such a significant impact on her growing up. She is thrilled to be joining the student-centered, equity-minded team at Lawrence North.

her time at LC, JoAnna was Student Council Class President and helped lead a variety of school wide events. Faculty and staff were excited to catch up with JoAnna and hear about what she's been up to since graduation.

JoAnna is currently enrolled in New York University studying her way towards a Neuroscience Degree. She is working through her general education courses which include Italian, Arts and Cultures, and Global Works. JoAnna praises how well LC's IB program prepared her for college level rigor— she earned straight A's her first semester!

JoAnna was selected into a study abroad program in Florence, Italy, at NYC's Florence campus for her first year of college. During her year abroad, not only is she getting a higher education through NYU; she is also learning about European history through the lens of those that experienced it. JoAnna has traveled her way through Italy and is fully immersing herself in Italian culture and language as part of her coursework. JoAnna has also traveled to Amsterdam, London, and Copenhagen. She hopes to travel to Tokyo this semester, too. **Your Bear family is so proud of you, JoAnna!**



**Lauren Matthews, LN 2018**, will be playing professional volleyball! She signed her first professional contract this month and is set to play for the Nakhon Ratchasima DevilCats in the Women's Volleyball Thailand League overseas. Lauren was an Indiana All-Star and first team All-State selection her senior year at



Lawrence North. Congrats, Lauren! To learn more about this story, [visit here](#).



If your graduation year ends in 3 or 8, it's time to start planning your class reunion! Register your reunion with LTSF by [emailing](#) or calling 317-423-8303. We'll help you get the word out to classmates and provide valuable planning resources!



LEARN MORE



The Lawrence North and Lawrence Central girls basketball teams went head to head on January 12th. The energy in the Lawrence North gym was off the charts. In the end, LN beat LC with a final score of 54 to 53. Congrats, Cats!



Photo courtesy of @Inwildcats on Twitter.

## Have you read our 2021-2022 Impact Report?



Your gifts of serving, supporting, and giving benefit over 16,000 students and 2,500 employees in MSD of Lawrence Township. **As we enter into the new year, we invite you to take a look at the impact YOU created in 2021-2022.** Together, shoulder to shoulder, we are empowering LT kids to reach their full potential. Read our latest Impact Report to learn more!

VIEW THE REPORT

## SHOP & GIVE



Shop at Kroger? Register your Plus Card [online](#) and enter the NPO number WE867.

When you shop, swipe your card, or enter the phone number associated with your card. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to LTSF.

## We want to hear from YOU!



Have news you'd like to share? We want to include you in our Alumni spotlight!

Email [Natalie Thomison](#), LTSF Marketing and Event Specialist, with your update for a chance to be featured in our Alumni eNewsletter or on our social media!

### MORE WAYS TO GIVE

### STAY IN TOUCH



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