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# Lake Country

## THIS MONTH

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## Pewaukee Lake Elementary 4K embraces immersive environments

Thematic spaces create dynamic learning

By Jake Ekdahl  
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PEWAUKEE — Kids often hear the words “learning can be fun” but at Pewaukee Lake Elementary’s 4K program, that doesn’t take much convincing.

Students there are immersed in a dozen spaces throughout the school year, following their teacher and peers into environments designed to teach through play. Pewaukee School District Superintendent Mike Cady said the spaces include a dig pit with fossils in the dinosaur room, a rocket ship and planets in the space room, and more.

“Immersive is the best word to describe it,” said Principal Brian Siegel. “It’s completely engaging and to kids it feels like they’re playing and having fun with literacy and numeracy kind of infused into every activity they do.”

There are six rooms, each of which has one theme for the first semester and another for the second. Those themes include dinosaurs,

zoos, oceans, polar regions, construction, space, travel, farm to table and more. In each of those environments, literacy and numeracy are wrapped into the theme, so students pick up on background knowledge even while playing with peers.

“Each of these themes ties to social studies or science standards that they’ll be learning more about in their elementary years,” said Robin Wilson, director of learning and academic coaching at the Pewaukee School District. “So they’re carefully curated and designed to build background knowledge in each of those topic areas.”

That background knowledge helps kids when they begin to learn via text later.

There are currently 167 students in the program, and they rotate with their teacher and peer group from theme to theme roughly every three weeks.

“We know that this kind of environment is highly engaging for students and it gives them the opportunity to see in more relevant ways,” said Pewaukee Schools Chief Academic Officer Danielle Bosanec. “It’s not just seeing letters in a more formal (setting) but seeing letters in everything that they do.”

Wilson said the dynamic



Submitted photo

From left, Wyatt Crow and Tess Glover pretend-fish from a canoe in one of the immersive learning spaces of Pewaukee Lake Elementary’s 4K program.

learning spaces were inspired by a visit to a school district in a Dallas suburb, where a \$40 million 4K center had been constructed.

“We wanted to look at how we could take the instructional concepts that were grounded and make it, frankly, more fiscally sustainable,” she said. “And that’s what I think we’ve been able to achieve.”

With that sustainable model now a reality, the

hope is other schools in the area might build their own similar 4K spaces. Wilson, Bosanec and Siegel said the program gets kids excited to come to school.

### Data shows spaces help learning

There’s data showing the spaces are helping with learning, too. Wilson said 5% more students could identify all upper-case letters by the end of last year compared to the previous

year — for lower-case letters the growth was 6%. With phonological awareness, or being able to correlate letters with sound, a full 10% more students achieved benchmarks for that last year than the year prior. With 2020 being a year full of COVID-19-related disruptions for many, growth this year may be more substantial.

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# St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church celebrates 170 years

By Derek Johnson  
Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — While there's no shortage of historical buildings in Waukesha County, few continue to service the community like St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church, which is celebrating its 170-year anniversary this year.

The church, at 1111 Genesee St., is one of the two oldest buildings in Delafield. According to a press release, it was founded in 1851 by R. Ralston Cox, who decided that Delafield should have an Episcopal church. With the help of people from community members to an architect from New York, the church was built with a unique "Carpenter Gothic" architecture style on top of

a hill that overlooks Nagawicka Lake and the Bark River.

Many of Delafield's most prominent families have been members of the church and are buried in the churchyard, and almost two centuries later, the building still stands with only minimal modifications.

And despite its age, the church is as dedicated to helping its community as it was in the 1850s. One of the ways it does so is by creating therapy blankets for children at local hospitals. For the past six years, long-time church member Karen Laabs and a few other dedicated volunteers have made over 500 blankets in their spare time to help kids deal with the stress of being at a hospi-

tal.

"It's been a lot of fun and rewarding," Laabs said.

In addition to making blankets, the church also holds occasional food and clothing drives for area nonprofits, and hosts lectures on the second Tuesday of every month at 2 p.m. about a wide variety of historical topics.

"We try to develop the intellectual life," said Rector Philip Cunningham, who has led the church for the past seven years and is a chaplain in the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

When combined with the church's Sunday services that are held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cunningham said that the roughly 50 families that are part of the church have become a tight group that's dedicat-



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Four members of the St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church, including Shirley Waite and Bruce Robertson in the back and Karen Laabs and Pat Nowak in the front, make therapy blankets for children at area hospitals at one of the church's buildings.

ed to carrying on the church's traditions and preserving its unique legacy.

"This is their church," Cunningham said.

And for Melissa Eriksen, who has been part of the

church since she was a teen and is now one of its senior members, the importance of that cannot be understated.

"You just feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself," she said.

## Inn at Pine Terrace sold; new owners plan to continue inn

OCONOMOWOC — The Inn at Pine Terrace is closing its doors on Oct. 10 after it was sold, according to a statement on its website.

The iconic bed and breakfast has been in operation for the last 35 years. The post mentions the actual timeframe is closer to 100

years if the summer resort era of the hotel is counted.

"I have always said that the best part of this bed and breakfast business has been

meeting nice people," owner John Gresley said. "I will miss seeing my innkeeping family... (bed and breakfast) guests, some who have become friends, innkeeper colleagues, the Oconomowoc business community, and my Pine Terrace neighbors.

"Those are family members I will never forget."

Gresley said he decided he wanted to sell the Inn after his wife Ruth died late last year.

Gresley said the new owners told him that they plan on doing some renovations over the winter and reopening and continuing to operate the inn in the

spring.

The Inn at Pine Terrace is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. It was originally built as a private summer home for Peter and Henry Schuttler in 1879. The brothers were wagon builders and the house would stay in the family for 40 years and play host to notable visitors throughout that time, according to the inn's website.

In 1920, the property was sold and became Pine Terrace Resort and the house became the centerpiece of the over 150 acres of Fowler Lake frontage, the website states. Over 60 years later in 1986, \$1.5 million was spent to restore the inn to its "original grandeur."

### 4K

From Page 1A

"They're not passive in their learning, they're active in their learning," Wilson said. "All of us learn more by being fully engaged and immersed in something."

Siegel said he appreciates the district staff who made the program possible as well as CG Schmidt, the Milwaukee-

based construction company that put together many of its assets.

"I just have to give a lot of credit to Robin and Danielle for really taking the reigns with the project," he said. "They've been absolutely instrumental."

Those interested in learning more or enrolling in the program are encouraged to connect with Bosanec, at [bosadan@pewaukee.schools.org](mailto:bosadan@pewaukee.schools.org).

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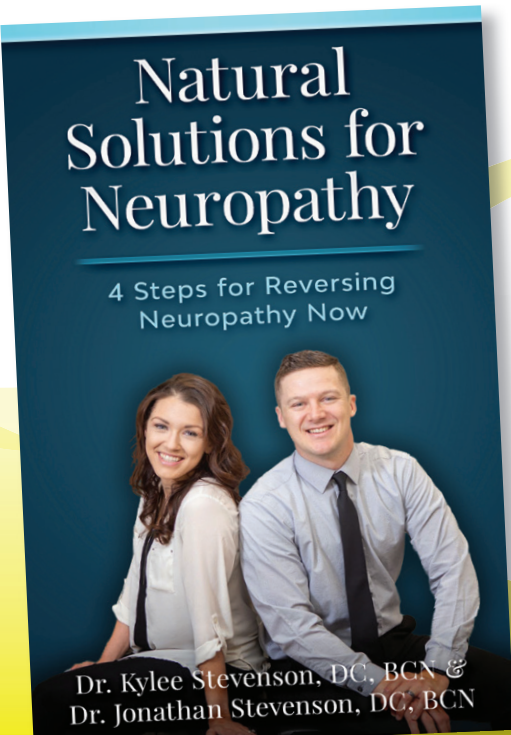
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# The King Of Lake Country Real Estate Bringing Global Exposure To Clients

Global real estate brokerage firm Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices is expanding into the lucrative Lake Country market and teaming up with veteran agent Pat Bolger, also known as “The King Of Lake Country Real Estate.” The business partnership brings worldwide exposure to Bolger’s local listings and for those who are relocating, a network of agents reaching around the world. That’s a big win for Pat Bolger Realty. “I am thrilled about the new affiliation. Mostly, because it means a world of new connections that will ultimately pay off for my clients.”

Bolger earned the moniker, The King Of Lake Country Real Estate, with a combination of salesmanship and authenticity. He’s in the top 1 % of Lake Country real estate agents, year after year. He’s got a go-getter energy, yet approaches clients with a relaxed and laid back style. His research on properties and the market can’t be beat. He’s there when you need him, with a pocketful of Dad jokes, and a smile that doesn’t stop.

Bolger comes across as a regular guy who grew up in Lake Country and loves his life. He won’t tell you he sold \$43 million dollars in real estate in 2020. Someone else will. He won’t tell you he sold 46 homes in Lake Country last year (10 times more than the average agent). He’ll leave that to someone else. “The only numbers I need to share with clients are the numbers that mean something to them,” Bolger says. “How much we can get for their home, and how fast we can sell it.” Still word gets around, and when Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices wanted to expand its network to Lake Country, they chose Bolger to represent them.

Part of Bolger’s appeal is also his familiarity with the market. Bolger knows every lake like the back of his hand. “I’ve spent my whole life in Lake Country, with a fishing pole, water skis, and a cocktail in my hand on a sunset boat cruise. I know the nooks and crannies and where to find lakefront property that will match each client’s lifestyle and budget.”

If Bolger is a matchmaker, pairing each client with their dream home, his list of potential suitors just expanded in a major way. Berkshire Hathaway \_ HomeServices is the brainchild of famed businessman Warren Buffet. In 1998 the billionaire was dreaming of building the biggest network, of the best realtors in the world. Today, Berkshire Hathaway is the second largest brokerage firm in the United States, with offices around the world as well.

While Bolger buys and sells luxury homes, with sophisticated architecture and million dollar views, there is nothing flashy about him. Bolger recently moved into new a Delafield office, located in a strip mall just off of Interstate 94. There’s a black leather couch in the waiting area, with a big screen TV tuned to Sports Center. All of the action takes place in a large room lined with white boards that track active listings, active buyers and the progress of sold transactions. Bolger converted a dining room table into his desk, with active files an arm’s length away.

Dozens of real estate awards are piled up in the corner and chances are they will stay there. Truth be told, Bolger is a little uncomfortable with accolades. When asked if he plans to hang the awards on the wall, Bolger gives a sheepish grin. “No, probably not. I’ve just been incredibly lucky.”

Luck is one thing. Driving success is another. Bolger drives his own success and teaming up with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices adds major resources to the services Bolger can offer his clients. The affiliation brings global exposure to his Lake Country listings. Through Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, the listings will be seen by potential buyers in all 50 states and across the oceans. “If someone is moving their family to Lake Country from Florida, or California, or even Milan or Montreal, they will see the listing through Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. And, if you are the one relocating to another city or even country, I can direct you to a trusted agent in the Berkshire Hathaway network who will tend to your needs the same way I will.”

The art of exposure is something Bolger already has down ... well. .. pat. He has assembled a dream team of experts in home-staging, photography, videography and writing. “More exposure with quality material means more money for my clients, and that’s a win!” And now, with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices on his team, exposure and potential wins are raised to a whole new level. It’s fine to celebrate the new partnership, just don’t give Bolger an award. It will probably end up in the corner on the floor. “I’m more interested in what my clients think. It’s their home and their money. Their success is my success. Now, with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, we get to up our game even more.” – *By Julie Feldman*



**262.313.8797 / PatBolger.com / Pat@PBRrealty.com**





Submitted photo

## Swallow Elementary students join Milwaukee peers on Helping Hands mural

MILWAUKEE — Students from Swallow Elementary smile alongside artist Vedale Hill in front of the newly unveiled Helping Hands mural in Milwaukee’s Bronzeville neighborhood on Oct. 6. Through the nonprofit SHARP Literacy, Swallow students joined with peers from St. Augustine Preparatory Academy, Kluge Elementary School and Rogers Street Academy to create a “Helping Hands” mural on Garfield Avenue near Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. The project was guided by artist Vedale Hill, a Bronzeville native who experienced challenges in his life including homelessness. SHARP CEO and President Lynda Kohler said he’s an inspiration for students. “They look up to him,” she said. “Art was his way out of poverty.” Swallow students participated virtually with the St. Augustine students. They talked to each other during the process.



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