

SOUTH CAROLINA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER.

Touchdown Vikings!

By: Brooke G.



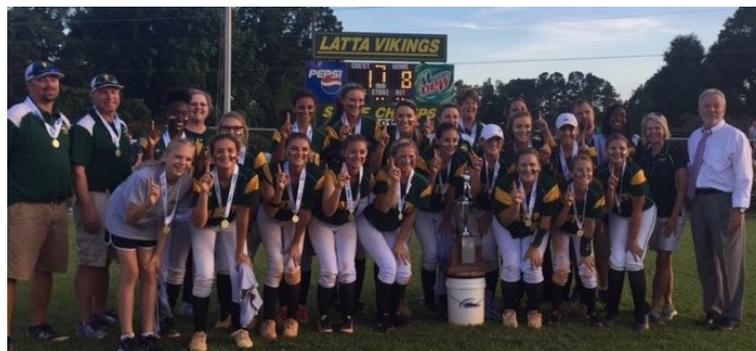
After suffering the difficult losses against Dillon, Andrews, and Carvers Bay, the Latta football team steadily improved and were on the rise to the top. The team earned the opportunity to participate in the final playoffs. After winning their face off with the North Charleston Cougars with a score of 43-12, the LHS Vikings worked hard to bring home the Lower State Playoffs title. Although they showed great perseverance and fought hard, they were unable to upset the Bamberg-Ehrhardt Raiders, and missed the victory. However, we are so proud of our Viking football team and their fight to the playoffs. Thanks for a great season!

Latta High's High School Musical

By: Chase S.

Latta High School is proud to present *High School Musical* as the musical for the 2017-2018 school year. *High School Musical* is a movie that was filmed in 2006, and has had many sequels. The movie is about a high school star basketball player named Troy Bolton, and a beautiful, nerdy girl named Gabriella Montez that fall in love with each other at a karaoke party. Troy and Gabriella audition for a school musical together. They quickly become entangled in a rivalry with the school's drama kids as they also struggle to balance their other responsibilities.

In the LHS production of *High School Musical*, Troy Bolton is being played by Alec D., and Gabriella Montez is being played by Catherine B. Lily B. has taken on the role of Sharpay Evans. Many other students are playing essential roles in the play and helping backstage. Allyson L. and Jenna B. are working with props and backstage management, while Aro L. operates the audio equipment, and Sam H. controls the lighting. Mrs. Erika Roberts and Mrs. Rachel Caulder are the director and vocal coach, respectively, and Mrs. Jodie Branham is the choreographer. This musical presents a great opportunity for young actors and singers. Come out to the Ellis Performing Arts Center in the Spring to watch an amazing performance!



Congratulations to the Latta Varsity Softball team and their victory as State Champions! The Lady Vikings beat Buford 6-5 and 8-1, earning them a second State Championship in three years! They had a wonderful season, and celebrated an excellent win of the Lower State Championship. The team truly put their best effort forward last season as shown in the game against Andrews, ending with a 5-0 victory for the Vikings. After asking a few of the team players what this season's key to success was, they all offered the same reply. The girls would all agree that last year's focus was all about playing for each other, not for themselves. After all, there is no "I" in team! In fact, as they began playoffs, they made a united effort to play for one another, not just for themselves, as they noted on their right wrists. The team received their State Championship Rings earlier this year, making that two State Championships for the girls in the last five years!



Student Government

By: Karina P.

Latta High School has developed a new Student Government this year, sponsored by dance teacher, Jodie Branham. The 2017-2018 Student Body President is Preston J., and the Vice-President is Ashley S. The Senior Class President is Catherine B., and the Vice-President is Brianna H. The Junior Class President is Kaleigh C., and the Vice-President is Kendall B. The Sophomore Class President is Joy B., and the Vice-President is Miracle B. Lastly, the Freshman Class President is Chase S., and the Vice-President is Hailee D. The Student Government plans to bring Latta High School certain events and opportunities to bring the whole student body together. Near the end of the football season, Ashely S. worked to create a student section at the football games, starting with the October 13th game. The theme for the student section was Pink Out to embrace Breast Cancer Awareness. The Latta High School Student Government plans to bring the whole student body of Latta High School together as one.



A MARCH TO VICTORY

By: Briana W.

In late July, the Latta Marching Vikings began their season with mini band camp under the leadership of Jonathan Griggs, the new director, and the drum major Majayla P. After 2 weeks of band camp, the band members began practicing three days a week for their first competition, the Sandhills Classic Band Invitational in McBee, SC, in which they placed 2nd overall. After this, they moved on to compete in Hartsville at the Tournament of Bands where they placed 3rd overall. They also competed in Murrells Inlet, SC, at the Fin-Fest



Tournament of Bands. They again placed 2nd overall. The band had a mini-band camp on October 14 in order to prepare for the 1A Lower-state competition in which they competed against bands such as Chesterfield and Batesburg-Leesville. They placed

fourth at Lower-state, so they moved on to compete at State the next weekend, where they placed sixth. The Marching Vikings had an overall successful season, so don't forget to congratulate them on finishing the season with a bang!

VIKING EVENTS

Volleyball

By: Casey P., Whitney B., & Lily B.

The Lady Viqueens had an exciting season of volleyball as they grew as a team and worked together! They won the first round of playoffs in volleyball this year, beating Phillip Simmons. However, they faced challenges during the next round of playoffs, and lost their game with Batesburg-Leesville. Maddie O. and Casey P. will be graduating after this season, but they have definitely left a legacy to remember. As a whole, these volleyball players have come together as a team and are known to be extremely close to one another. These ladies have fun in everything they do. We congratulate them on their season, and wish them luck for next year!



Homecoming—A Night to Remember

By: Ariel T.

On Friday, October 6, 2017, Latta High School voted for their 2017 Homecoming Queen. The senior class of 2018 had many candidates running for the opportunity to win Homecoming Queen. Although all candidates were astonishing, and worthy of the title of Latta High's 2017 Homecoming Queen, the student body was left with a challenging decision, to narrow these options down to one. This one was Madelia J., who got the title as this year's Homecoming Queen, escorted by Jamarcus L.

When I asked Madelia J. how she felt about winning, she said, "It feels good to win; I had a lot of people supporting me and rooting for me to win." When asked if her victory was one of the best moments of her Senior year, she responded, "Yes, it's something that I will never forget, and something that my high school classmates will always remember about me." She also gave advice for the LHS underclassman who would like to be Homecoming Queen in the future, explaining, "Be nice to everyone." Jamarcus L. also shared his excitement at winning, explaining how he felt to be escorting J., "I felt great about escorting Madelia because she's a beautiful, smart, and sweet young lady."

Congratulations to Madelia J. for receiving the title of the 2017 Homecoming Queen, and thank you to everyone who participated!



Cross Country

By: Brooke G.

Although the kickoff to Latta High's cross country season was late this year, there was a large spike in the number of runners compared to previous seasons, and members of the team have been working exceptionally hard. At Regionals, the cross country boys placed 3rd out of four participating teams. The girls were unable to place due to the cross country team's limited number of female members, but they still put their best efforts forward out of support and love for the sport. Our own Thomas A. placed 1st individually as a Region Champ! Every team member should be recognized for a successful season and strong improvement. The top seven were able to participate in this year's lower state meet October 28th.



ROTC

By: Lily B., Whitney B., & Rachel J.

ROTC has had a strong start this year! They placed 4th in their October 28th drill meet at Saint James, and continue to practice for future meets. They helped host the Veterans Day program on November 10. Emceed by Maegan T., the program included multiple student performances, the National Anthem, sung by Mrs. Amanda Graham, and the reading of Makinleigh M.'s George F. Spradley winning essay about an uncle who gave his life serving his country. Gracen G. also shared about her work with Operation Thank You and was able to give the Veterans that attended postcard messages from our students. Attendees also had the privilege of hearing interviews with two Veterans, Caroll Allen and James Calvin McRae, that allowed the audience to hear the truth about war time. The ROTC students will also be marching in the Latta Christmas Parade and the Dillon Christmas Parade. The rifle team has started practicing for future competitions; we are excited to see what they can do! These students put in hours of hard work, and have immense respect and a sense of loyalty to our country. We appreciate the leadership of Colonel Dew and 1st Sergeant Jackson.

The First Year of I.B.

By: Jenna B.

Three current juniors were asked about some topics related to being a part of the International Baccalaureate program their first year. Pamela M. was asked how I.B. has been treating her so far and she replied that it is very demanding and takes time, persistence, and desire. Someone lacking motivation would most likely not be able to accomplish the amount of work. However, it has taught Pamela and students like her to look at things in different ways, while including multiple perspectives. It has also caused her to change her priorities. Gracen G. was asked to identify some positives and negatives of I.B., and she said a positive is that it has made her grow as a person, and with the program CAS, (Creativity, Activity, Service), she feels she can make a difference. Some negatives are that the work load is heavy and grading is hardcore, but you only live once. Lastly, Kyliegh C. was asked how can one better manage the stress that comes along with I.B., and she responded that she can better manage her time by prioritizing her classes and also getting a good night's rest so she can be rested for the next day to come. So, for all of the upcoming juniors who are considering I.B., it is difficult, but if you are headstrong and have a strong work ethic, then the program is for you!



See You at the Pole

By: Nashua B.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes sponsored See You at the Pole on the morning of September 27. This event took place at the large American flag displayed in front of Latta High School. Mrs. MB Rogers, the FCA sponsor, started the time off with a verse of scripture and began a prayer chain. Then, the students took turns lifting up heart-filled prayers around the circle, and many said prayers individually to themselves. Majayla P. and Nashua B., FCA leaders closed out the time with final prayers. FCA members would like to encourage everyone to come to FCA meetings every Friday at 8:15 in Mrs. MB Rogers' classroom.

Science on the Move

By: Brianna C.

On Tuesday, September 19, the Greenwood Genetic Center Mobile Lab visited Latta High School. The IB Biology class was able to take part in a genetic experiment where they were able to extract DNA from their own cheek cells for DNA isolation, produce a copy of a specific gene by setting up a Polymerase Chain Reaction, and then visualize the target DNA as bands seen when running a Gel Electrophoresis. This opportunity was extremely exciting because it allowed the students to have a hands on look at many of the topics being studied in this higher level Biology course. The students also gained experience using many new types of lab equipment such as a centrifuge, thermal cycler, and gel electrophoresis cassettes and gel boxes. Having opportunities such as this is what makes the IB students interested in the subjects they are studying and gives them the desire to learn more.



Going Gold and Taking A Stand

By: Lily B.

Interact Club has started another year off trying to make a change in the community of not only Latta High School, but the town of Latta as well. The Interact Club's project for September was "Going Gold" to raise money for Camp Debbie Lou, a camp for children affected by childhood cancer, since September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The Interact Club also focused on the theme of anti-bullying for October, due to October being National Bullying Prevention Month. In November, they were able to participate in making the candy bags for the Harvest Festival. Many Interact Club members also volunteered at this festival, and enjoyed interacting with the kids who attended. We are looking forward to hearing about their outreach during December! Interact Club members want to make a difference, and help everyone they can. They take a stand against issues that need to be addressed, and are always willing to lend a helping hand.



School Spirit

By: Cassie G.

Homecoming week is an important, memorable time in most high schools. It gives students the chance to take a small break from the normal and share their school pride! Throughout the week of Homecoming, students and teachers participated in various theme days to show their school spirit. These theme days created the basis for a competition between grade levels and second block classes. Even though this competition proved to be a tough battle, the Seniors displayed the most spirit, capturing the trophy for this year's spirit award. Out of second block classes, Mrs. Hyatt's class took the win by "SCRABBLING" their way to the top. Altogether, Latta High School expressed their school spirit with pride throughout homecoming week.

"IB[e]" Dancing

By: Jessica P., Whitney B., and Lily B.

Latta High School's International Baccalaureate Program has expanded further this year, adding IB Dance to its growing list of course options. Students enrolled in this class are thrilled about the opportunities they are exposed to throughout the course. Each student in the class has to choreograph two dances with a style of their own choice, allowing them the freedom to express themselves in any interpretation they feel fitting. One of the two dances must be a solo, and the other may be a solo, duet, or group number. These students also learn more about advanced techniques and dance terms. At the end of the semester, IB Dance students will be given a writing assignment on their experiences with one of the dances.

This class also traveled to the Koger Center in Columbia on November 8, to see Travis Wall's (Emmy winner known for work on *So You Think You Can Dance* and choreography for many stars) Dance Company, Shaping Sound perform on their world tour. After watching *After the Curtain*, the students said they enjoyed the experience because it gave them a different perspective of dance as it told a story. They also shared that it made them be more creative as they worked on their own choreography. Although this is only year one, IB Dance is off to a great start, and students have made several accomplishments.



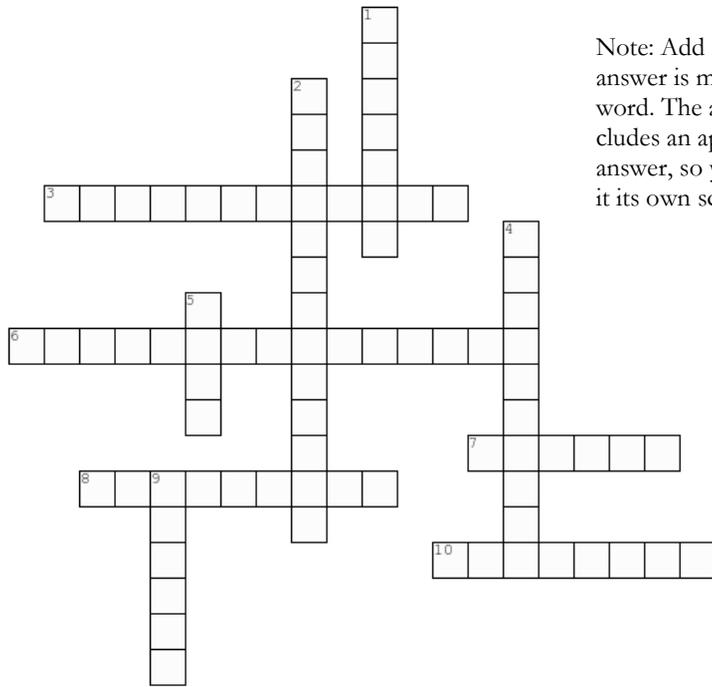


Fall Happenings



Autumn Is Ending

Complete the crossword below. The first person who comes to Mrs. Reynolds' room with the correct answers will win a prize.



Note: Add spaces when the answer is more than one word. The answer to #6 includes an apostrophe in its answer, so you will need give it its own square.

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://CrosswordPuzzleGenerator.com)

Across

- 3. Originated from colonists long ago
- 6. May be creepy or funny, but hides light within
- 7. Ponyboy needed to stay
- 8. Night where identities are hidden
- 10. Gratitude for what we have, who we have, and who we are

Down

- 1. Spices everything this season
- 2. Chore must be done more and more often
- 4. Horn of plenty
- 5. Weather is beginning to turn
- 9. Fall to signal the start of this season

Famous Quotes from Our Very Own Teachers: Guess Who!

“Fools rush in where wise men fear to tread!”

This is important folks!”

“It’s not hard, it’s tedious.”

“See me from 8 to 8:30!”

“Learn it!”

“PSSTT!”

“Math is Beautiful!”

“This is not stupid, it has a purpose!”

walks around with coffee cup “Hello Sweet Children!”

“It is what it is.”

“Hola, Buenos dias!”

“Seniors, you can only do what you can do today.”

“What’s up Big Money?”

“Why? How? Think TOK!”

“You can do this, I’ll be your cheerleader!”

“You’re at a 10, I need you at a 2.”

“Go to church on Sunday!”

“Thou shall not stress!”

“Don’t forget your cow books!”

“Be concise!”

“Stay out of trouble.”

“Have a great day and make smart decisions!!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ IMPORTANT DATES



- Latta Christmas Parade: December 1
- High School Band Concert: December 4
- Middle School Band Concert: December 5
- First Semester Exams: December 14 & 15
- Christmas Break: December 18– January 1

SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER! Send a Christmas candy gram to a classmate, teacher, or friend!!! LHS Student Government members will be selling the Christmas candy grams starting Monday, December 4th through Friday, December 10th in the Commons area for \$1.00 before school and during both lunches! Plan to purchase one next week!!! :)

Halloween

By: Lydia C. & Cheyenne H.

