

2020 School Days - History Is Being Made

By Helen Vogt Greene

After 108 years and the corona virus still very real, Lake Worth Beach is now called upon, as never before, to ‘work together’. ‘Together’, not for the politics, but for our future - our children. You can only imagine the stress levels for both the parents and students, facing a new uncertain school year.

With the brand new Lake Worth High School just opening, on September 23, 1922, the following greeted the 324 pupils, the largest number at the now Lake Avenue School. Prof. E.C. Ewing was the Principal of both buildings, but Mrs. J.J.

Baker was in charge of the Lake Avenue School, now the City Hall Annex.

School has begun. So, come everyone. Come with shining faces,

For happy are they, Who learn while they may. So come, and take your places.

In 2020, there will be new ‘places’ to take. Those, who will be attending classes at the schools, will have their temperatures taken, washing their hands and will, most importantly, be wearing masks. Others will be opening their computers to the virtual classes of learning.

This year Palm Beach Country School will welcome approximately 197,000 students. I hope

lots of pictures will be taken, because history is unfolding in front of our eyes.

In the Lake Worth’s core area there are the following public schools and when they were established: Lake Worth Community High School, 1922, Lake Worth Jr. High School c. 1938 (on the hill next to LWHHS, now off 10th Ave. N.), North and South Grade, 1926, Highland Elementary, 1954 and Barton Elementary, 1956.

There is an amazing amount of wonderful education taking place at the Sacred Heart Catholic School, located on North ‘M’ Street, K-8th grades. It was established in 1944.

There was also a school



PBSC Panel to Discuss Need for Low Voltage Technicians

LAKE WORTH - As consumers and businesses increasingly use digital technologies to control security, thermostats, lighting, intercoms, entertainment systems and more, the need for low voltage technicians also has increased.

Palm Beach State College will host a virtual panel discussion with industry leaders on low voltage technician careers from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 16. Anyone interested in registering for the free Zoom event should visit [engage.palmbeachstate.edu](https://www.palmbeachstate.edu) and search for “low voltage.”

Panelists include Angela Barnard, CEO, Audio Visual Systems; Rick Seymour, CEO, CSI Palm Beach and Carpenter Electric; and

Alan Mullenax, instructor for PBSC’s Low Voltage Technician certificate program. Panel moderator will be Thomas Gauthier, Ed.D., associate dean for the College’s Industry, Manufacturing, Construction and Transportation Department.

“With so many people laid off due to COVID-19, low voltage is a great field to consider getting into,” Gauthier said. “Graduates of our two-semester program have many career options to choose from ranging from security and home automation installation to maintaining the systems that control hospitals, offices and other community structures. There’s room for growth in responsibility and salary.”

Alex Acevedo graduated from the Low Voltage Technician program last July and went directly into a project coordinator position at Life Safety Management, a fire alarm and sprinkler contractor in Boynton Beach. His knowledge of the low voltage field made him the ideal candidate to run the company’s permitting department.

“The program really opened doors for me,” Acevedo said. “The low voltage field is very big. Everything is low voltage nowadays as everything’s becoming more automated. If you have an understanding of low voltage, you can go a lot of places. I feel like I struck gold coming out of school and getting this good of a company to take me on.”

called West Grade, located at “A” Street and Lake Worth Road. It was first an elementary school and became the History Building for LWHHS. It has since been demolished.

When Palm Beach Farms Company purchased the land in late c.1910, there was nothing here except Samuel and Fannie James and mosquitoes. Lots of big mosquitoes.

There was a nine-foot wide Dixie Highway. Lake Avenue was the first street to be graded from the Florida East Coast Railroad to the shores of Lake Worth. There was a 1000 foot dock. It was easier to transport the lumber and equipment by barges on the water.

Historically, the education of the children took the highest priority. In fact, the school was the first building built in 1912. It was built with donated materials and labor. When completed, it was used not only as the school, but a meeting hall and for the Union Church (now the First Congregational) services.

The school was located where the City Hall Annex is today. Called the Annex today, it was also built as Lake Worth’s second school in c.1915.

With the new schools, West, North and South Grade schools, the City of Lake Worth purchased the Lake Avenue School from

the Board of Education in c.1924. The new City Hall sustained major damage during the 1928 Hurricane. When it was ‘repaired’, they decided to change the architecture.

The first school was 24 x 36 and made of Florida Pine. It was painted, with donated paint, Flagler Yellow. The first desks and seats were planks supported by barrels. Amanda Snyder was the first teacher.

It is very important for our children that we put aside any problems, stress, and worries. This is THEIR TIME. Let us ALL do our best for them. Let us help them ALL to find their ‘places’ in life, starting now.

Boynton Beach Donation Increases Student Wi-Fi Access

The School District of Palm Beach County recently received a charitable contribution of \$75,000 from the city of Boynton Beach. The generous donation through the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County will support more than 2,000 students in need of Wi-Fi access.

“Time and statistics have shown, families without access to the internet earn less, learn less, and live less. The Boynton Beach Mayor, City Manager, and City Commission have taken a bold step to

bring the internet to their constituents,” James S. Gavrilos, President/CEO of the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County said. “I congratulate the leadership of Boynton Beach who has put equity of internet access at the top of their agenda.”

The School District began the 2020-2021 school year in Distance Learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the summer, the District was focused on securing devices for its students and ensuring that each of them has

access to the internet.

“When this crisis began, we put our heads together and said collectively, how can we help?” Commissioner Christina Romelus said in a tweet. “This donation will help thousands of families get and stay online to access education, seek jobs, and stay connected.”

“I hope the rest of Palm Beach County is listening! It’s your turn to ensure that every person in our community has access to the information and opportunities offered by the internet,” Gavrilos said

History repeats itself. Came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

