WE are Lakota

October 6, 2020 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue

'Behind the Curtain' Video Series Debuts

Take a closer look inside Lakota Local Schools with a new video series called “A Peek Behind the Curtain.” First up: meet the district’s four therapy dogs.

Watch Video

School Board's 'WE Can' Food Drive Kicks Off Oct. 12

The Lakota School Board's annual food drive to support Reach Out Lakota runs from Oct. 12-23.

Full story

Take Our In-Person Learning Survey

Lakota wants to hear from our students, parents and staff about the first eight weeks of in-person learning.

Take Survey

Features

- Academic Calendar Change for Nov. 2-4
- WE are Prepared: COVID Update
- New Shawnee Literacy Lab is on a Roll
- Freedom Hallway Becomes Stone Age Cave
- Lots of Color in Hopewell's Color Run Alternative
- Lakota East & West Cyber Academy: A New Wave of Cyber Talent
- Focus on the Social/Emotional Needs of Virtual Learners

New Business

- October Social Media Contest
- INCubator@edu the Focus of October's 'Listen Up Lakota'

SHOUT-OUTS

Recognizing the Hard Work of Our School Nurses

National Nurses Day might not be until May 6, but it's always time to recognize our school nurses for all the hard work they do – especially now!

In addition to their regular duties of ensuring students' immunizations are current, administering medications, tending to injuries during school hours, helping students with chronic illnesses, and checking in on the emotional health of their students, school nurses are also now working on their school's pandemic plans, communicating with the local health department, performing contact tracing, and managing two spaces (the 'well' clinic and the COVID-19 symptoms clinic).

Like everyone else who works in education, school nurses' roles are changing this school year and their work is more important than ever. Thank you to our WEareLakota nurses!

Lakota West Art Students Featured in Local Photography Exhibition

Congratulations to these Lakota West art students with photos accepted into the Outdoor Evendale Juried Photography Exhibition: juniors **Chance Gray**, **Fairouz Maayah** and **Sarah Penney** and seniors **Austin Huff**, **Sydney Jones**, **Tracy Nguyen** and **Marialinda Roblero**. The work of Ridge Junior art teacher **Amy Panfalone** and Lakota West art teacher **Jodi Kessler** will also be featured at this prestigious show.

The exhibit features photos from local adult amateur photography professionals, alongside youth submissions. Photos will be on display on a fence at 10500 Reading Road from Oct. 25 through Nov. 9.

Lakota Musicians Named to Youth Orchestra

Several Lakota students were named to the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestras (see above). The orchestras are comprised of the region's most talented young musicians in grades 7-12. The orchestras rehearse weekly, perform up to five concerts per year, and receive access to musicians of the CSO as coaches and mentors. Congratulations!

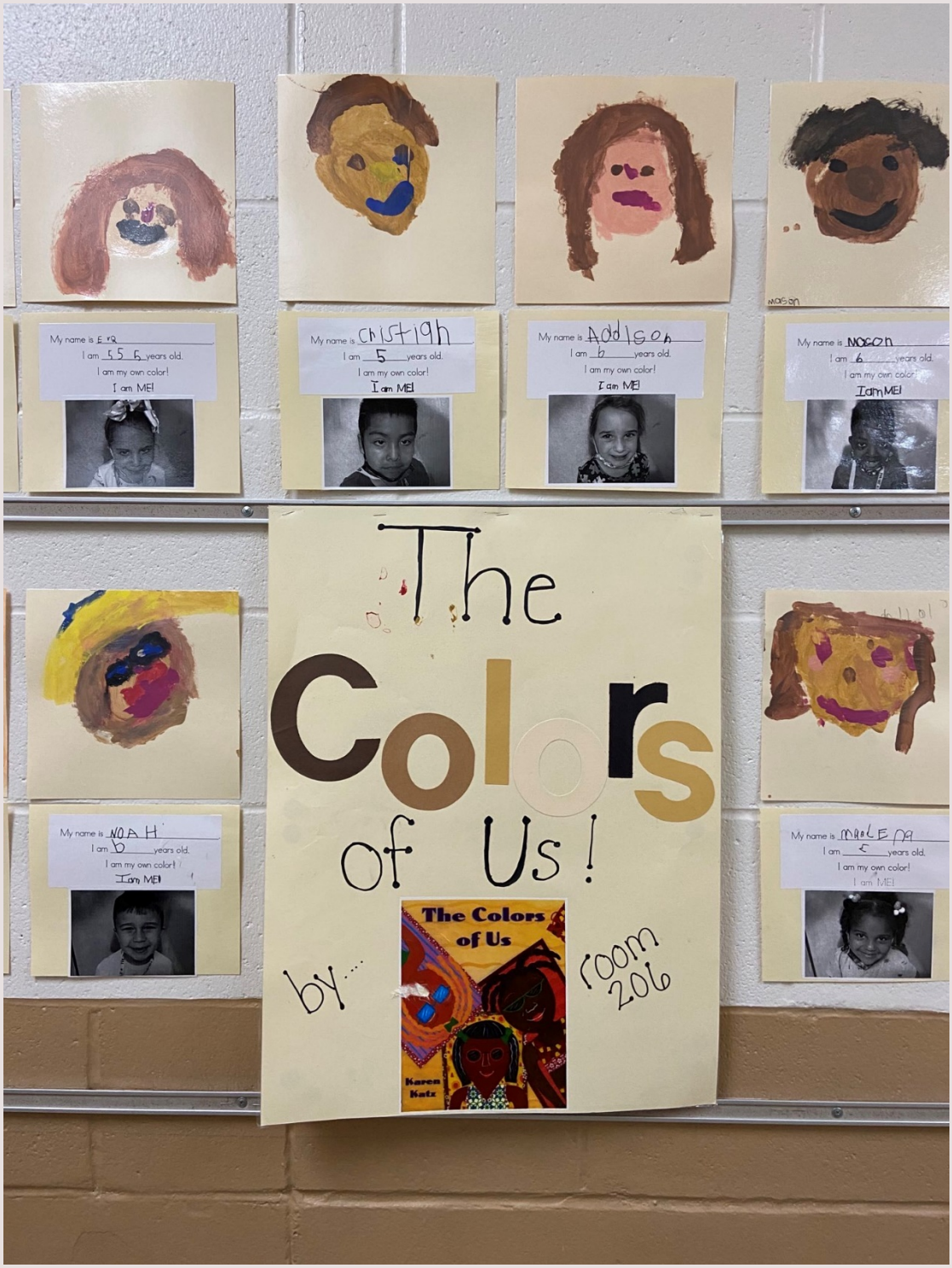
Lakota East Hope Squad Member Receives 2020 'Inspire Award'

Greater Cincinnati's Grant Us Hope, a partnership that brought Hope Squads to Lakota's high schools, paid a surprise visit to Lakota East High School this week. Lakota East junior and Hope Squad member **Olivia Marshall** was the recipient of the organization's 2020 "Inspire Award," which recognizes individuals who have worked diligently to take their organization to the next level. The

award recognizes young leaders who have moved the needle on youth mental health and suicide prevention.

In addition to leading Lakota East's Hope Squad, Olivia was recently selected to represent Ohio on the National Hope Squad Council. She and three other Ohio student representatives are the first to represent Ohio at the national level. Congratulations Olivia!

FEATURED PHOTOS



Celebrating Our Differences at Wyandot ECS

Kindergartners in **Julie Goldberg**'s class at Wyandot Early Childhood School celebrated their differences. After reading "The Colors of Us" by Karen Katz, students painted their own self-portraits, using paint to make a color that matched the color of their skin.

East Holds Homecoming Parade

Even though this year's homecoming dance was put on hold due to COVID-19, it didn't stop the students from Lakota East High School from celebrating. In a special pre-game celebration, students participated in the second annual homecoming parade around the track. Members of many different extracurricular activities, including clubs and athletics, participated. Following the parade, the homecoming court was introduced and the king and queen announced. Congratulations to **Drew Bachman** and **Ellie Ford**!

Wild, Wild West Homecoming

The Lakota West Student Government Association took a creative approach in planning a Homecoming event for Lakota West students.

On Friday, the Student Government hosted a "Wild, West, West Homecoming." Main Street was filled with western-themed decorations and current music. The Homecoming Court was announced with a procession down Main Street, and during the evening students were encouraged to wear masks, socially distance, and get dressed up in their Homecoming outfits (and share their photos using the hashtag #WestStayAtHOMEcoming). The day ended with a football team victory, clinching the GMC title!

AROUND LAKOTA

New Video Series Debut: A Peek Behind the Curtain

Take a closer look inside Lakota Local Schools with a new video series called “A Peek Behind the Curtain.” Throughout the year, you’ll get an inside look at different parts of the school day. In this first video, you’ll meet the #DogsOfLakota, the district’s four therapy dogs who are helping students and staff in innovative ways.

Watch the Video

Lakota School Board's 'WE Can' Food Drive Serves Reach Out Lakota

The Lakota Board of Education's annual district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota will run Oct. 12 through Oct. 23, leading right up to National Make a Difference Day on Oct. 24. In true "WE are Lakota" fashion, the district is challenging families, staff and community members to "stuff the bus" with canned goods and other non-perishables needed by our community's local relief organization.

"As a board we truly believe that we are in this together. Especially by working with community partners like Reach Out Lakota, WE can make a difference in the lives of our families," said Lakota Board of Education President **Brad Lovell**. "Your board of education thanks you for coming together to support Reach Out Lakota in its mission to assist our Lakota families."

Click here to view a flyer, including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.

Read more

In-Person Learning Feedback Survey

Now in our eighth week of in-person learning, feedback from our students, parents, guardians and staff remains a priority as we continue to focus on the well-being of our students and staff. We are once again asking you to complete a brief survey.

Please provide your feedback by Monday, Oct. 12 at 8 a.m. If you have multiple students in the district, we encourage you to complete separate surveys by clicking "Submit Another Response" at the end of the survey. Employees are invited to answer the questions from a staff perspective, as well as a parent or guardian if applicable.

We appreciate your feedback so that we can continue adjusting our safety protocols and striving to make this a great school year for everyone.

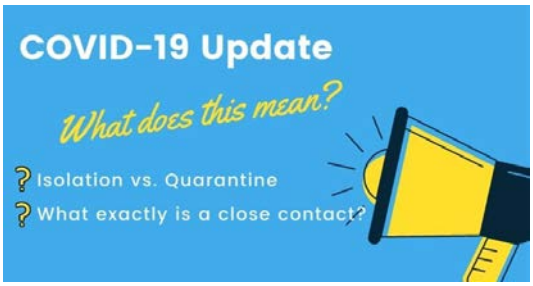
Take Survey

Academic Calendar Change for Nov. 2-4

Lakota has made an adjustment to our academic calendar for Nov. 2-4. Traditionally, Lakota's teachers and staff participate in professional development on Election Day. This decision is part of our safety and security guidelines because 18 of our schools are used as polling locations in our community.

This year, we must consider the impact of having thousands of people pass through our buildings in the middle of a pandemic. As you may know, every other day our buildings are closed to visitors as a safety measure to help stop the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have strict cleaning protocols that are followed in our buildings every evening.

Read more



WE are Prepared: COVID-19 Update

Now in its eighth week of in-person learning, Lakota Local Schools continues to follow the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Butler County Health Department (BCHD). Safety protocols continue to be adjusted as needed in order to help stop the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

When a student or staff member is showing symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive, they must begin to isolate immediately. Any siblings or family members in the district must begin to quarantine at the end of the day.

Read more

New Literacy Lab is on a Roll at Shawnee ECS

Many Shawnee ECS kindergarteners are saying it is the favorite part of their day. It's not recess. It's not lunch. It's when the Literacy Lab rolls into their classroom.

The Literacy Lab (or Lit Lab) is a new initiative at Shawnee that provides Tier I instruction. Typically, Tier I instruction is when an educator teaches the entire class a lesson based on a specific grade level standard that is appropriate for the average reader.

What's different about Lit Lab? It provides *differentiated* Tier I instruction to all kindergarten students, meeting them where they are and growing them through creative, interactive stations and small group instruction.

Read more

Freedom Hallway Becomes Stone Age Cave

How do you get sixth-graders excited about studying the Stone Age?

Transform the hallway by your classroom into a cave.

Freedom Elementary social studies teacher **Regan Hagemeier** explained to her students that they would spend the school year travelling all over the Eastern Hemisphere studying world civilizations. Students created passports as part of this "Freedom Trek," using those passports to take brief notes about what was unique about each civilization. Their first destination was to be Mesopotamia.

Read more

Lots of Color in Hopewell's Creative Alternative to Color Run

Despite having to completely reimagine this year's format, at least one thing about a popular after-school event at Hopewell Junior School remained intact: lots of color.

But this time, rather than having staff and parent volunteers throw color at them, students spread out on the school's athletic field and were throwing paint on a blank ceiling tile. All together, the individual tiles will soon form a large display of student expression in the school's cafeteria.

The Tile Project was the Hopewell PTSO's creative response to not being able to execute its traditional Color Run this year amid COVID-19 restrictions.

Read more

Lakota Cyber Academy Partnerships: A New Wave of Cyber Talent

The Lakota Cyber Academy is a first of its kind program for high school students. It has been designed alongside industry partners to develop a local pool of talent in one of the fastest growing professions in the world: cyber security.

"The Lakota Cyber Academy is an extremely innovative program that allows the industry to truly drive their incoming workforce," said **Katie Bauer**, Lakota's strategic partnerships coordinator. Serving as curriculum advisors, student mentors, internship hosts and even fiscal sponsors, they provide students with the real world experiences and certifications they need to enter the workforce or continue their education immediately after graduation.

"Business partners are the lifeblood of what we do in this program. Without them, we can't make this a real world opportunity," said Lakota's Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction **Keith Koehne**.

Hear from current business partners and students and learn all the different opportunities to get involved in this exciting program.

Watch the Video

Focus on Social/Emotional Learning of VLO Students

Addressing the social/emotional needs of students is always important, but especially so for virtual learners during the COVID pandemic.

Lakota's VLO students might feel particularly isolated or lonely by missing out on valuable social interaction and relationship building in the school setting. It is also more difficult to establish the feeling of belonging and the feeling of being psychologically and mentally safe when students aren't physically in the classroom.

"Nothing replaces seeing the students face to face all day, every day," said **Lori Brown**, Lakota's Director of Student Service. "But the good news is that everything we have wanted to do to meet the social/emotional needs of our VLO students, we have found a way to do it."

Read more

NEW BUSINESS

October Social Media Contest: Fall Favorites

Is it jumping into a big pile of leaves? Warm apple cider? Trick or treat fun? Family and friends sitting around a fire pit? We want to know your favorite thing about fall.

Lakota's October social media contest is all about fall fun. Share a photo showing what you like most about fall, and you just might win a prize basket full of Lakota spirit items.

Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging Lakota's account and #LakotaLovesFall. At the end of the month, the posts with the most "likes" will be declared our winners.

Learn more

INCubatoredu the Focus of October 'Listen Up Lakota'

This month's edition of "Listen Up Lakota," a monthly radio program powered by 89.3FM WMKV, will focus on INCubatoredu@Lakota, the district's newest high school course offering for future entrepreneurs. These special guests share their experiences with the program: INCubatoredu teacher **Kevin Keen**, Lakota East students **Riley Higgins** and **Makayla Taylor** and **Randy Wilhelm**, president of Think Horsepower and a professional mentor for INCubatoredu.

Lakota is only the second school district in Ohio - and one of just 125 nationwide - to make "Shark Tank" a class for its juniors and seniors. The entrepreneurial experience allows students to work alongside professional mentors to ideate and develop their own product or service. In the end, they will compete in teams against their classmates, pitching their ideas to local investors who will award seed money to help make the top ideas a reality.

Tune in at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16 or 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22 on 89.9FM WLHS or 89.3FM WMKV. You can also stream it live at WMKVFM.org or download the WMKV app. The interview will be available as a podcast on the station's website after the first air date. WLHS/WMKV is a member-supported public radio with its studios located at Maple Knoll Village in Springdale.

Click here to view a recent news story from Spectrum News featuring INCubatoredu@Lakota.

ON THE RADAR

Be Part of Lakota's Science and Engineering Fair

Lakota's 2nd Annual Science & Engineering Fair will take place the evening of Friday, Jan. 29. The fair is open to all Lakota students in grades 5-12 and can be entered as an individual or team. The event will either be held in person at Hopewell Junior School or virtually, based on district requirements at the time of the event.

Projects can be science-based or engineering-based. Student participants will present their project with a poster display, a typed project report, and an oral presentation. Projects

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee Chat with the Superintendent
October 7
7 p.m.
Facebook Live

'WE Can' Stuff the Bus Food Drive for Reach Out Lakota
October 12-23
All Lakota Schools

receiving a “Superior” rating at the Lakota Science & Engineering Fair are eligible to participate in the District Science & Engineering Expo at the University of Cincinnati in the spring. For more information, go to: http://www.lakotaleads.org/science-fair-1.html.

If you have questions, please contact LakotaScienceFair@gmail.com, and be sure to follow the fair on Twitter @LakotaScienceEngineeringFair and Facebook @LakotaScienceFair.

USDA Waiver: All Lakota Students Eligible for Free Meals

In response to the financial hardship felt nationwide as a result of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an opportunity to provide free meals to all students through an anticipated date of Dec. 31, 2020 at no cost to the district. This applies to students learning both in-person and through the district’s Virtual Learning Option (VLO).

All students can receive one breakfast and one lunch daily at no cost. A-la-carte purchases will still be charged as usual. VLO students are able to participate in a twice-weekly meal distribution program where they can receive up to 10 meals. Click here to read more about the new USDA waiver providing free meals to all students.

Weekly Technology Zoom Sessions for Parents

How can I help my child who uses Seesaw? How do I navigate Canvas? What are some tips and tricks to make all of this technology easier to use?

Each week through October, Lakota’s innovation specialists are hosting zoom sessions covering the most-requested topics for grades K-2, 3-6, 7-8 and 9-12. Click here for a complete schedule of help sessions, links and forms for submitting future help topics.

Oct. 7 Coffee Chat: Submit Questions in Advance

Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller is continuing his community coffee chats on the first Wednesday of every month to help keep parents and community members informed about what's happening at Lakota Local Schools. Until circumstances change regarding COVID-19, we will continue to host these sessions virtually in an effort to accommodate as many participants as possible in a safe manner.

Board of Education Meeting
October 12
6:30 p.m.
Plains Jr. & via Zoom

No School: Professional Development Day for Staff
October 19

Board of Education Work Session
October 26
6:30 p.m.
Plains Jr. & via Zoom

No School for Students: Professional Development Day for Staff
November 2

Election Day: Remote Learning for In-Person Students; VLO Continues as Normal
November 3

Remote Learning for In-Person Students; VLO Continues as Normal
November 4

Coffee Chat with the Superintendent
November 4
8 a.m.
Facebook Live

District Calendar

Join Miller on Facebook Live (@LakotaSuper) this month on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. for an update on the school year and to share your questions and concerns. New this month: To help efficiently prioritize questions and concerns, consider sending in your thoughts via this Thought Exchange. Other participants will have an opportunity to rate your thoughts (and share their own), helping us address the most pressing concerns in the allotted time frame.

2021 MLK Day Contest Challenges Students to 'Reinvent Reforms'

In preparation for our community's annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, all Lakota students are invited to participate in a contest that promotes self-reflection about diversity and inclusion in our community and nationwide.

This year's "Reinventing Reforms" theme challenges students to reflect on what they can do personally, using the resources of this era, to carry on the work started by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The contest is part of the community-wide observance of MLK Day, known as the "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" celebration. Click for more information.

Webinar: Mental Wellness Routines

An informative presentation about the importance of mental wellness routines was created by Dr. Ann-Louise Lockhart in collaboration with our MindPeace partners and 1N5. Routines and daily practices are a large part of maintaining positive mental well-being.

This webinar will talk about right size expectations during this time, re-evaluating health and wellness goals, creating new habits for well-being, and adjusting and maintaining routines for both individual family members and as a family unit.

Click here to watch a recorded presentation; you can also register for a live webinar on any of the remaining dates (choose the date you want to attend; the same material will be presented on each day): 10/8/2020 @ 5pm EST; or 11/12/2020 @ 5pm EST.

Lakota, C3 Social Media Series

Lakota and the Caring Community Collaborative (C3) are hosting a virtual mental health conference exploring the impact of social media and technology on youth, with weekly sessions on Thursdays at 4 p.m., from Oct. 1 through Nov. 5.

There's no cost to attend, and both mental health professionals and the public are welcome.

To see the full schedule of speakers and topics, and to register, visit the events page on C3's website at www.caringcommunitycollaborative.com. For more information, email contact@C3Ohio.org or call 513-939-9255.

WE are Lakota

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