

## A Look Around Lakota: E-News Edition

February 28, 2020



**Free Raffle!  
over \$4000  
in Prizes**

# SUMMER FUN FAIR



**110  
Exhibitors**

**8th Annual Open House from 6 - 8 p.m.  
March 2: Lakota East • March 4: Lakota West**

## Summer Fun Fair is Next Week!

Lakota East and West's hallways will soon be lined with a record-setting number of organizations offering summer youth activities.

It's all part of Lakota's eighth annual Summer Fun Fair events taking place on Monday, March 2 at Lakota East High School and Wednesday, March 4 at Lakota West High School, both from 6-8 p.m.

[Click here to see the 100+ exhibitors](#) ranging from summer camps, learning centers and childcare facilities to athletic leagues, art programs, recreation activities and volunteer opportunities.

Vendors have also generously donated the raffle items below that will be given away at each of the two open house events. The raffle is free, with over \$4,000 in prizes including free birthday parties, gift baskets, camp registrations, gift certificates and memberships. [Click here to see the list of prizes.](#)

Concessions will be provided by our high school booster organizations, so you can grab a quick dinner, snack or dessert. Live performances and demonstrations by some organizations will also provide extra entertainment throughout the evening.

Hope to see you next week!

[READ MORE](#)





Proud to Introduce...

WonderBus

## Introducing Wonderbus: Lakota's First Mobile Learning Space

With the rollout of its first mobile learning space, Lakota Local Schools will be giving parents and community members a dose of the Lakota learning experience. The Wonderbus - a former school bus transformed into a "Wonder Lab" or "STEAM Lab" on wheels - will officially roll out at Lakota's Pi Day celebration on March 6.

"This idea has been in the making for quite some time now and we are thrilled to be so close to sharing it with our community," said Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "The Lakota learning experience is one marked by exploration, creativity and critical thinking. The Wonderbus will give our parents and the larger community a taste of our commitment to student-led learning."

Besides its external transformation, the inside of the bus has been outfitted with a host of educational tools and resources that promote design thinking, a model used in each of Lakota's early childhood school Wonder Labs and elementary-level STEAM Labs.

[READ MORE](#)



MASTER FACILITIES PLANNING

# COMMUNITY MEETING: VISIONING

#WEareBuildingOurFuture



## Meeting Recaps Visioning for Lakota's Future

On Feb. 26 members of the community gathered at Lakota West Freshman to hear the district's most recent update on the Master Facilities planning (MFP) process.

Attendees heard from Superintendent **Matthew Miller**, Chief Operations Officer **Chris Passarge** and Educational Visioning Planner Tracy Richter. "We've spent the past month meeting with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to update our building conditions and holding focus groups to hear from our community about what they think education should look like in Lakota," said Passarge.

In December, Lakota's Board of Education approved a resolution to enter into [Ohio's Expedited Local Partnership Program \(ELPP\)](#) through the OFCC. Lakota is eligible to begin receiving partial funding from the state for all projects that are completed in the final Master Facilities Plan from this point forward.

As part of the agreement with the OFCC, Lakota is required to work with a visioning consultant to explore what education should look like in the coming years. And community input plays a critical role. "We appreciate the feedback we heard during our meetings with the focus

groups,” said Passarge. Led by Richter, students, staff, parents and community members met in small groups and also came together for a large meeting during the process. Richter also met with district leaders and board members.

[READ MORE](#)







# SHOUT OUTS



Joseph McDonald, 200 & 500



Lakota's National Merit Finalist





## Eleven Lakota Students Named National Merit Finalists

Lakota Schools is proud of these eleven students who were just recently named as National Merit Finalists.

**Alexander Bastin** (East)

**Eve Beiting** (East)

**Eric Coons** (East)

**Megan Hoke** (East)

**Rebecca Horwatt** (West)

**Tanya Kukreja** (East)

**Colin McQueen** (East)

**Abigail Niehaus** (East)

**Anne Pachuk** (East)

**Caroline Rice** (West)

**Kaya West** (East)

Only one percent of the 1.6 million students who took the PSAT as juniors are named finalists. In March, the National Merit Scholarship Program will begin awarding scholarships to selected finalists based on test scores, overall academic record and recommendations.

## East's McDonald State Champion in 200 & 500 Freestyle

Lakota East senior **Jacob McDonald** is the new state champion swimmer in both the men's 200 and 500 freestyle. Jacob competed at the OHSAA Swimming and Diving Championship in Canton on Feb. 22, where he finished with a time of 1:37.62 in the 200 and 1:37.62 in the 500.

**AROUND LAKOTA**

**WE**  **Public  
Education**

## Lakota Superintendent Testifies about EdChoice Program

*On Feb. 18, Superintendent Matthew Miller testified before the conference committee about the state's [EdChoice voucher program](#). The committee is hearing testimony with regards to House Bill (HB) 9 which includes the Senate's plans addressing the voucher program. Below is Miller's testimony.*

Chairman Jones and members of the House Bill 9 Conference Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding Ohio's EdChoice Voucher program. I am Matthew Miller, superintendent of Lakota Local Schools in Butler County.

I join many of my colleagues and fellow advocates for public education in the state of Ohio during these hearings. I am here today to encourage the committee to adopt the transformative voucher reforms as passed by the Ohio House.

[READ MORE](#)





**Lakota**  
**STATE**  
**OF THE**  
**SCHOOLS**

## **March 11: Superintendent to Deliver 2020 State of the Schools**

Superintendent Matthew Miller will deliver the district's third annual "State of the Schools" address on March 11. The event is open to the entire community.

"If you attend one district event all year long, this is the one you want to attend," Miller said. "It's truly an overview of everything that's happening across Lakota and what's on the horizon. There are some great stories and I'm excited to share the stage with some of our students and staff."

Miller will cover many topics, including current examples and future plans to support the district's current strategic plan. Evidence of Lakota's progress toward a personalized, future ready K-12 educational experience will be presented by Miller alongside student and staff speakers.

The event takes place at Lakota West High School on Wednesday, March 11. The 7 p.m. program will be preceded by a showcase of all 23 schools open at 6:30 p.m.





Heritage  
First Graders  
Find New Ways to  
Love Their  
Planet





## Heritage First Graders Finding New Ways to Go Green

It all started with some classroom bean bag chairs that had gone flat.

Most people would refill them with styrofoam beans, but not in **Stephanie Allan** and **Rhiannon Wilson**'s first-grade class.

Allan and Wilson team teach at Heritage ECS. They share a passion for lowering waste in their lives outside of school and decided to collect plastic bags over the summer to refill the 'poof' chairs. When students saw the teachers stuffing the chairs, they wanted to help.

"Naturally we started talking about why you just don't throw the bags away and other things you can do with them," said Wilson. "And the students started bringing in their own plastic bags and now the chairs are nice and full."

That led to more discussions about plastics.

[READ MORE](#)



# Business Day 2020

*Fifth graders at Woodland Elementary learned all about running a business, and then held a Business Day on Feb. 13 to showcase and sell their products.*

**Woodland's Annual Business Day Takes on a New Twist**

What does it take to get a business off the ground? It starts with an idea.

Fifth graders at Woodland Elementary School have been learning about running a business for some time now, but this year the annual event known as Business Day took a different turn. Using one of the district's [personalized learning "plays,"](#) the teaching team turned Business Day into [project based learning \(PBL\)](#). "The purpose of (Business Day) was for kids to share their creativity and learn more about economics (through Social Studies and Math) without even knowing they were learning," said **Angela Haney**, one of the teachers who began the project 14 years ago.

The foundation for Business Day starts at the beginning of the school year. Students apply for a classroom job where they earn a paycheck with fifth-grade money - complete with their teachers' faces on the bills - that can be used later in the year at Business Day and the annual end-of-year auction. The students choose from jobs such as turning the lights off and on, pencil keepers and filling the mailboxes, receiving a paycheck twice a month.

[READ MORE](#)



# RECESS

Conflict  
Resolution



Problem Solving



Respect



Acceptance

# LESSONS



*Hopewell Junior Honor Society students are helping their early childhood neighbors on the playground: facilitating games, managing conflict and helping the younger students problem-solve when conflicts do arise.*

## Hopewell Junior Students Return to Recess in Different Roles

The playground is as much a learning space as any classroom - and Hopewell Junior School students are now the ones behind some of those lessons. With the start of a new partnership with their neighbors at Hopewell Early Childhood School, the seventh- and eighth-graders are experiencing recess from a whole different perspective.

“You can see how they learn teamwork skills and how to work in a group at recess,” said Hopewell eighth-grader **Angela Bell**. A few of her classmates and fellow volunteers - **Zoe Surette, Samyra Feng, Mallory Shroder** and **Olivia Wilson** - added other lifelong skills they’re seeing play out on the playground, like problem-solving, acceptance and respect.

Twice a week, the junior school students are giving up their “T-Hawk Time” to go out to recess. But this time around, their role looks quite different than it did one or two years ago. They are helping facilitate games, manage conflict and most importantly, help coach their younger counterparts on how to problem-solve when conflict at recess does occur.

[READ MORE](#)

# Notes from the Nursing Staff





## Notes from the Nursing Staff about COVID-19

We understand that there is concern about illness in our schools especially with influenza, strep throat and COVID-19 (formerly known as Coronavirus). Please be assured that we work closely with the Butler County Health Department to stay up to date with concerns and illness trends in our area. As a district, please know the following:

- We are closely monitoring the CDC updates and recommendations.
- All nurses currently monitor illnesses, as they always have, to identify flu and other illness trends. If greater than normal illnesses are happening, our nurses work with the health department and will notify parents and staff as needed to monitor their children. Additionally, our nurses are in close contact with the custodial staff so that should there be an increase in any type of illness extra steps are added to the daily cleaning procedures to lessen the spread of germs.
- There are currently no cases of COVID-19 in Ohio, and our US risk of infection remains “low” per the CDC, so anything now is in the preparation phase and not currently an active disease outbreak.
- As always, we continue to encourage hand hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette and staying home when ill.

If you have any further questions, please contact your building nurse.



# THE AMAZING RACE



CELEBRATING  
WORLD  
LANGUAGE  
DAY



## Amazing Race Celebrates International Mother Language Day

Last week, Lakota high school students took their passports and went on a journey around the world – all in just about an hour.

To celebrate International Mother Language Day (February 21), over 2500 students took part in an Amazing Race-style competition to learn more about the languages offered at Lakota.

The Amazing Race had students singing in French, signing their name in American Sign Language (ASL), finding out just how many words are derived from Latin numbers and animals, and learning about the human towers of Catalonia.

The idea came out of a random five o'clock conversation between East and West language teachers. "With French and Spanish classes being taught right across the hall from my room, it's made me interested in different languages," said West ASL teacher **Katie Nicol**. So she brought up the idea of collaborating with other teachers to help spark that interest in students as well. "Until I started planning this event, I didn't know that there were already many students actually taking two languages at the same time."

Each Amazing Race team consisted of at least one student from each of the languages taught at Lakota: ASL, French, Latin and Spanish.

[READ MORE](#)



What do you love about Lakota?

### **Words of Wisdom: Why Do You Love Lakota?**

During the month of February, we asked, “what do you love about Lakota?” Enjoy the answers from some of our students in this month’s Words of Wisdom.



[Click here to watch the video.](#)

[View All  
District News](#)

**FEATURED PHOTOS**

POWERED

share  
risk taker  
creative  
connect  
problem solve  
Try it  
encourage  
wonder  
challenge  
investigate  
EXPLORE  
Build  
discuss  
explain  
summarize  
research  
imagine  
ADENA  
COLLABORATE

INNOVATION



*Teachers throughout the district celebrated #LakotaLearningDay on Feb. 27. The day, in conjunction with Future Ready and Digital Learning Day, is meant to call attention to how teachers are integrating technology into classroom learning. Over at Adena Elementary, sixth-grade students in Mr. Barrow's class used virtual reality goggles to take a trip to Ancient Egypt.*







*Sixth graders in Mrs. Jones' class at Independence Elementary began recording their podcasts in the school's WINDY94 recording studio. The studio is part of the school's Innovation Hub.*



*Lakota's new therapy dog Bendi stopped by Ms. Fischer's room to visit students during reading. As part of the district's new pilot program to help meet the social and emotional needs of students, Bendi will spend her days at Creekside and West Freshman. She can often be found greeting students upon arrival, in the hallways and inside classrooms.*

## NEW BUSINESS

### February Video Update: A Look Around Lakota

In this latest video edition of A Look Around Lakota, Superintendent **Matthew Miller** and Lakota East Junior **Kara Abney** share just a few of the happenings throughout the district during the month of February, including:

- An extreme makeover, classroom edition, at Adena Elementary;
- An amazing race at our high schools for World Language Day;
- An opportunity for our community to give feedback during the Master Facilities Planning process; and
- A sneak peek at Lakota's new Wonderbus.

[Click here to view this month's A Look Around Lakota.](#)

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### May 9: Lakota Spirit Night at FC Cincinnati Game

Lakota is excited to announce this year's Lakota Spirit Day with FC Cincinnati!

Lakota families and staff are invited to take advantage of special ticket pricing for the May 9 game. FC Cincinnati will take on New England Revolution at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium. Special activities are being planned to celebrate Lakota's presence at the game, including a special recognition of Lakota West Girl Soccer State Champions, so come and show your Lakota spirit and support.



[Visit our group portal](#) and enter promo code LAKOTA20 to call 513-977-KICK to claim your tickets.

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### **Nominations Sought for Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit Awards**

Nominations are being accepted now through March 12 for the 2020 district Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit award.

Everyone is encouraged to take a moment to consider nominating a volunteer who is making positive things happen in the district. It is your opportunity to demonstrate your appreciation for the volunteers that truly make Lakota a special place to educate children.

Barb Bossu was an enthusiastic parent volunteer and the Union Elementary PTA president at the time of her death. The Volunteer Spirit Award was established in 1990 to commemorate her very special dedication to public education by honoring a volunteer each year from every school as well as a district volunteer in the Lakota district. The recipient should represent a positive spirit of dedication toward the betterment of our children.

[Click here for this year's district nomination form.](#) Use this nomination form to recognize a volunteer who is making a positive impact in our district where students are impacted, and who gives their time unselfishly to the Lakota district. Nominations for school volunteer awards will be announced by each school so check school newsletters for those deadlines and submission details. The district and school volunteer award winners will be honored at a district-wide ceremony on April 22 at 9:30 a.m. at Lakota West High School.

Please email completed nominations to [Lisa.Phair@cbws.com](mailto:Lisa.Phair@cbws.com) by March 12, 2020.

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### **Upcoming Plays**

*Tickets on Sale Next Week for Lakota East's 'Pippin'*

Coming soon to the Lakota East stage: *Pippin*!

A mysterious group of performers, led by a leading player, tell the story of a young hero on a quest to find where he belongs - to find his corner of the sky. This musical romp will take the audience on a journey of imagination, inspired by former Lakota East shows... singing, dancing, and circus tricks abound!

Performances are March 27, 28, April 2, 3, and 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 29 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online and \$12 at the door. Online tickets can be purchased at [seatyourself.biz/lakotaeasthigh](https://seatyourself.biz/lakotaeasthigh), beginning next week.

### ***Frozen Jr.: March 6-8***

Tickets are on sale now for Frozen Jr. on March 6-8 at Plains Junior School.

Bringing together sisterly love and the courage to be yourself, Frozen Jr. is an adaptation of the well-known Broadway musical and hit movie. Anna and Elsa are princesses in Arendelle, where Elsa has a secret that could harm her and her whole nations. Their journey is beautifully depicted in this musical, with some of the memorable songs and characters from the film.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at [ticketpeak.com/plainsfrozen](https://ticketpeak.com/plainsfrozen) or by calling 513-571-6686.

### ***Annie Jr.: March 6 & 7***

Hopewell Junior's Drama Department presents Annie Jr. on March 6 & 7.

Based on a heartwarming comic strip, Annie Jr. follows the orphaned heroine and her journey to find a family. Searching for her parents and evading Miss Hannigan, Annie wins over everyone with her spunky persistence.

You can purchase tickets online for \$8 at <https://hopewelljr.seatyourself.biz>; tickets will also be available at the door for \$10.

## **LATEST E-FLYERS**

**E-Flyers is Lakota's convenient and eco-friendly way to distribute information about programs, classes, events and opportunities happening in our schools and around the community.**

Lakota is proud to partner with Peachjar to share these opportunities in a digital format. Look for district-approved flyers in your email inbox every Wednesday or click the button below to view all current flyers by district or school.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Event Spotlights*

- Saturday, Feb. 29  
**Cookies & Cocoa for New Families**  
at Midpointe Library (in Liberty Center Foundry)  
12 - 2 p.m.
- Monday, March 2  
**Lakota Summer Fun Fair Open House**  
at Lakota East Main Campus  
6 - 8 p.m.
- Monday, March 2  
**Concert Band Winter Concert**  
at Lakota West Main Campus  
7 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 4  
**Freshman Bands Winter Concert**  
at Lakota West Freshman School  
7 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 4  
**Coffee Chat with the Superintendent**  
at Coffee Beans & Brew  
7 - 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 4  
**Lakota Summer Fun Fair Open House**  
at Lakota West Main Campus  
6 - 8 p.m.
- Thursday, March 5  
**Lakota Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**

## ON THE RADAR

### *Announcements & Opportunities*

#### **March 4: Next Coffee Chat**

Lakota's next Coffee Chat is set for Wednesday, March 4 from 7 - 8 p.m. at Coffee Beans & Brew (7051 Yankee Road).

Superintendent Matthew Miller will be on hand for drop-in conversation with parents and residents. Coffee Chats are held on the first Wednesday every month (with some exceptions), rotating between West Chester and Liberty Township locations. The times vary to accommodate different schedules. [Click here to view the Coffee Chats scheduled for this school year.](#)

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#### **Fellas & Fiction on March 10**

Every month, all Lakota boys in grades 1-6 are invited to "Fellas & Fiction," a special community-sponsored early literacy program hosted by Lakota's Outreach, Diversity & Inclusion (LODI) department. The next Fellas & Fiction is on Tuesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at X-Quisite Cutz (located at 7324 Kingsgate Way, Unit F in West Chester).

On the second Tuesday of every month, young readers are encouraged to bring with them a male role model with whom they can read. Each reader receives a free haircut and book, made possible by the Community Foundation of West Chester Liberty. [View the Fellas & Fiction event flyer.](#)

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#### **Tomorrow: Cookies & Cocoa for New Families**

Lakota Schools is hosting its first Cookies and Cocoa event to welcome our newest families who have started at our schools since



at Wetherington Country Club  
at 5:30 p.m.

- Friday, March 6  
**Lakota LEADS Pi Day and Lakota Science Fair**  
at Lakota East Main Campus  
6:30 - 9 p.m.
- Monday, March 9  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
at Plains Junior  
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 10  
**Fellas & Fiction**  
at X-Quisite Cutz  
6 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 11  
**State of the Schools & Student Showcase**  
at Lakota West Main Campus  
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 20  
**Spring Break: No School**

**See Full  
Calendar**

October and would have missed our ice cream social. Join us for a sweet treat on Feb. 29 from noon to 2 p.m. at MidPointe Library Liberty Center.

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### **March 6: Pi Day Hosted by Lakota LEADS**

Just one weeks until...you can devour over 90 awesome STEAM challenges presented by local exhibitors like: P&G, Cincinnati Museum Center, Camp Invention, Scientific Touch, ABC Pediatrics, Astronomy Club, UC Neuroscience, Metro Parks, Lakota Robotics, and so many more!

Pi Day is Friday, March 6 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Lakota East High School. Once you've had a chance to satisfy your craving for awesome STEAM challenges, fill your stomach. There will be food available for purchase from Papa John's and Chick-fil-A, as well as other snacks and pies – you can't have Pi Day without pies.

Still not sure if Pi Day is for you? Then [check out this video](#) to see what all the excitement is about.

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### **Write Challenge Writing Contest for K-12 Students**

LEADS (Lakota Enrichment and Academic Development of Students) is excited to announce the Write Challenge writing contest for *all* Lakota students in grades K-12.

This year's theme is PROGRESS. Students can submit an essay, narrative, poem or all three! Entries are due on March 15 and must be submitted electronically. Students and families can learn more about the Write Challenge and obtain entry forms on the [LEADS website](#). [View the program flyer](#) and direct all questions to [president@lakotaleads.org](mailto:president@lakotaleads.org).

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**K-12 Online Registration for 2020-2021 Open through April 1**

Online registration for grades K-12, including Lakota's all-day kindergarten program, opens Feb. 1 for the 2020-2021 school year. Kindergarten registration extends through April 14.

Parents of incoming kindergartners are encouraged to attend the Kindergarten Information Night at the early childhood school in their [attendance zone](#).

### **Kindergarten Information Night**

March 24

6 p.m.

*All six early childhood schools*

All students are eligible for all-day kindergarten, with the option to enroll in the half-day program, if desired. Lakota's kindergarten classes will be held at six K-2 early childhood schools, including Creekside, Heritage, Hopewell, Liberty, Shawnee and Wyandot. Please note that students must be five years old on or before Aug. 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. [Visit the kindergarten registration site for more details](#).

Families can register online before scheduling an appointment to visit the Welcome Center at 5572 Princeton Road to provide required documentation. [Visit the Welcome Center website for more information and to register online](#). All questions can be directed to the Welcome Center at (513) 682-4120.



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