

A Look Around Lakota: E-News Edition

October 4, 2019



Personalized Learning



Humanities
Lab

LINCC
Lab



New Freshman LINCC and Humanities Labs Get Personal

The bell rings to signal the change from first to second period at East Freshman School, yet students in three classes are completely unfazed. All around the auditorium - in the seats, on the floor, in the aisles - students continue huddling in small groups around their Chromebooks, deep in conversation. Another group on stage continues their quiet critiques of the children's books their classmates created, while one small group occupies the sound booth in the back of the room with the full attention of two of their teachers.

It's quite a stretch from the traditional classroom scene that typically comes to mind, but according to Associate Principal **Rob Burnside**, it's becoming the new normal - and it's working. "The instruction is just different and it's better. This is the kind of immersion and focus I'm seeing every day in our classrooms," he said. "It's exactly what personalized learning should look like."

It's known as LINCC Lab at East Freshman and Humanities Lab across town at West Freshman. But the concept is the same: Give the same group of students the same schedule across two or three core subjects and consecutive class periods, then remove the division (or the bell changes). Known as co-teaching among educators, it's a model that lends itself to student choice and cross-curricular projects that tackle all the same standards, but oftentimes add in skills of real world learning like collaboration, communication and creativity, for example.

"The lines that normally exist in a classroom aren't there. We base the lines on our curriculum, which is so much better than basing it on a clock," said East Freshman art teacher **Emily Edwards**.

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flexible



PLANNING FOR
THEIR FUTURES

playlist

Flexible Playlists Aren't Just for Teachers

Preparing for life after high school can be intimidating. What path will you take? What steps do you need to follow? The counselors at Lakota East High School are trying to ease the way for seniors this year by using flexible playlists.

With teachers throughout the district challenged to use one of four [personalized learning pathways](#) this year, the East counselors decided to try one as well. "The teachers were all talking about the different pathways they would be using and we thought we should try to incorporate one into our work," said counselor **Andrea Bryant**. During the Sept. 3 professional development day, the East counselors got the ball rolling.

That's when **Tara Bessler** suggested using the strategy for their senior meetings.

Bessler explained that the counselors wanted to encourage students to explore the different options for their future. "The playlist allowed us to personalize the work time during our presentation so all of our students' needs were met, and they could be exposed to a multitude of resources and practical tasks."

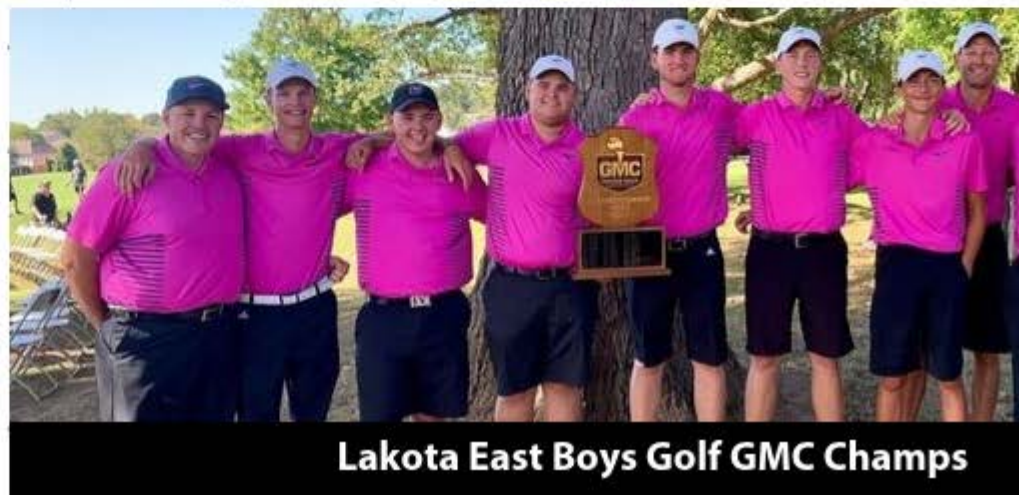
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Drew Kates



Lakota East Girls Golf GMC Champs



Lakota East Boys Golf GMC Champs

Both East Golf Teams Capture GMC Title, Advance to Districts

Congratulations to the Lakota East girls and boys golf teams on capturing the Greater Miami Conference championships.

The varsity girls golf team's victory was its second in the last three years. The team shot a two-day team score of 612, which was 25 strokes better than their nearest competitor. They finished third at the Sectional tournament, qualifying for the District tournament next Thursday at Beaver Creek Golf Course.

The varsity boys golf team earned their sixth consecutive GMC title. East finished one shot better than runner-up Mason, with a two-day total of 584. The championship trophy has now been in Hawk's hands 10 times in the history of the program. They finished second at Sectionals, qualifying for Districts at Glenview Golf Course next Tuesday.

Correction: OMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble

In addition to the names shared in the last edition, these musicians will also represent Lakota East in the Ohio Music Education Association's (OMEA) All-State jazz ensemble: **Ben Henderson** (trumpet), **Cooper Hettinger** (trombone) and **Russell Specht** (tenor saxophone).

Thousands of students audition for the All-State ensembles, which practice for several days in late January, working with some of the most renowned guest conductors and composers in the country. The groups will perform as part of the OMEA's Professional Development Conference being held at the Cincinnati Convention Center Jan. 28 through Feb. 1. All student performances are free and open to the public. The complete schedule can be found at OMEA-Ohio.org.

Another Lakota West Senior Aces ACT

More than 1.9 million students took the ACT last year and less than 1 percent received a perfect composite score of 36. Lakota West senior **Drew Kates** is one of them.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. All major U.S. colleges accept ACT test scores and scores provide colleges with evidence of student readiness for the academic rigors of college coursework.

AROUND LAKOTA



Second-graders at Wyandot ECS celebrated their growth as readers with a reading hour in their gymnasium turned campsite, where guest readers visited to read alongside them.

Wyandot Second-Graders Read by Campfire to Celebrate Growth

With the lights dimmed and a dozen or so tents pitched around a “crackling” campfire on Monday morning, second-graders at Wyandot Early Childhood School quickly forgot that they were, in fact, reading in their school’s gymnasium.

Second grade teachers **Cassidy Traylor** and **Sheila Grammer** coined the hour-long experience “Camp Read-A-Lot.” As a way of celebrating the completion of their first reading unit and keeping their students excited about reading, the teaching duo borrowed tents and camp chairs from Wyandot staff and families to complete their class campsite.

“We dream big and then just go with it,” Traylor said of herself and her teaching partner of 16 years. This year, the pair moved the celebration from their classrooms to the gym, hoping that they’d not only find enough tents, but enough guest readers to visit with their campers. They got more than enough of both.

“It all works out in the end,” said Grammer, smiling on at two students she would have never expected to be reading together by flashlight so quietly and intently. “That alone is a huge measure of success,” she said.

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Woodland Elementary raised \$12,500 and logged over 900 acts of kindness during the school's new fundraiser, "Raise Craze." Shown above: During the kindness fundraiser, students even asked to pull weeds and clean areas of the school!

Woodland's New Fundraiser Focuses on Acts of Kindness

It's not every day that students ask to go out to the playground to pick up trash, or to write thank you letters, or even to pull weeds around the school building. But acts of kindness like these are a daily occurrence at Woodland Elementary.

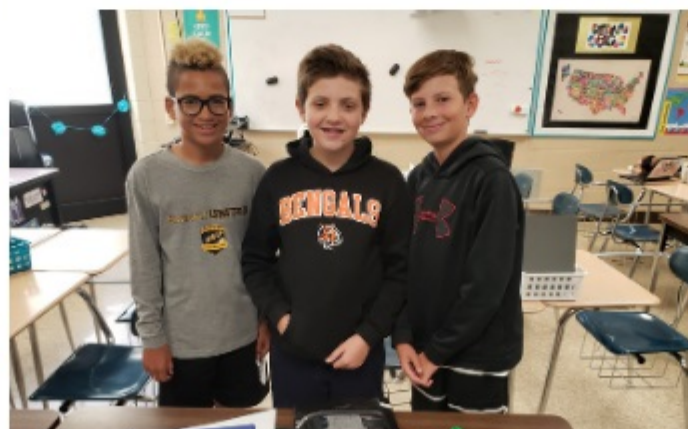
This wave of kindness was spurred on by the school's new fundraiser called Raise Craze.

Jen Smith-Bui, Woodland's PTO President, stumbled across this new way to raise money for the school and was immediately hooked. The idea is simple - ask for direct donations from families, and then the students perform acts of kindness as a way to pay it forward. "The money benefits the PTO, and we then use the donations to give the students and staff access to great programs," said Smith-Bui. "It's a great circle of giving! And EVERY student can be a part of the program - you don't have to give a dime to be kind."

The program also builds a sense of community and connection to the other people in the building. "Woodland's message is all about being one Pack," said Principal **John Wise**. "Fundraising tends to be an individual effort, regardless of the mission and the program. What we loved about Raise Craze is that every student could get involved to make Woodland a better place."

From the time the students learned about the fundraiser at the kickoff meeting, they were excited to come up with their own acts of kindness – everything from lemonade stands for charity to volunteering at a nursing home.

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Liberty Junior seventh-graders learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur during their Shark Tank project. A guest speaker who inked a deal on the popular TV shared his experience and advice with the students.

Shark Tank Veterans Share What It's Like to be an Entrepreneur

What's it like to be an entrepreneur? Liberty Junior seventh-graders learned firsthand through a recent "Shark Tank" project, complete with a special guest speaker who had inked a deal with shark Daymond John on the popular TV show.

Entrepreneurship is one of the 4Es that Lakota emphasizes to prepare students for their future. (The 4Es are **E**nrollment in higher education, **E**nlistment in the military, **E**mployment and **E**ntrepreneurship.)

Stephanie Lutz introduced the "Shark Tank" project to her students last school year, and she brought it back bigger and better this year to kick off her topic review of economics. Students were challenged to create a new product and develop a pitch to present to investors (their classmates). The pitch included a detailed description of the product, the target audience, product supply and logistics, pricing, a jingle and even a prototype of the product.

"The Shark Tank project really challenged the students," said Lutz. "It allowed them to creatively develop a product to solve a problem, and then work in teams to try to get investors for their idea. Project-based learning like this is fun for the students, and it also helped set the foundation for other things we will learn this year that we can relate back to this project."

This year the project added a new twist: Shark Tank veteran **Brad Baker** and his friend **Mike Lewis** (who helped write the Shark Tank pitch) gave the students pointers on being an entrepreneur and making a good pitch.

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Students from Lakota East and West high schools met with business professionals and community leaders at the recent community conversation held in partnership with the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance.

Community Conversation Brings Business Leaders and Students Together

What happens when you fill a room with business leaders and high school students? A conversation that bridges the gap and benefits both groups.

Lakota Local Schools partnered with the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance to host its second community conversation between local business leaders and high school students. "We believe in providing real world learning opportunities for our kids," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "Partnerships with the Chamber Alliance and the business community are crucial to making that happen."

More than 100 professionals and students filled Liberty Center's Sabin Hall to learn from one another. "As a business owner I think it's important to invest time in students," said Michelle Moody, publisher of Lifestyle Publications. "Students provide a unique perspective and opinions that most companies aren't currently capturing. These students are our future workforce and it's important that we help prepare them for what will be expected of them in their careers."

The school board's listening program, now in its eighth year, brings community members together to have an open dialogue about specific topics. This conversation provided an opportunity for participants to share perspectives and learn from one another. "I personally just love the energy and enthusiasm that students bring and I find it personally uplifting to spend time with them," said Moody.

Topics ranged from the benefit of learning from failure, to staying grounded under pressure, to being a well-rounded person. "This valuable exchange of opinions, ideas and knowledge left the group wanting for more – more opportunities to interact with one another," said Joe Hinson, President and CEO of the Chamber Alliance.

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FEATURED PHOTOS



To honor Lakota's commitment to building relationships, last month's social media challenge asked followers to share their new and continuing #LakotaFriendships. Pictured above, one of the most liked photos was posted by Lakota's strategic partnerships coordinator, Katie Bauer, with her friends at the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance. The Chamber generously offered Lakota some of their office space this year to help facilitate more connections with the business community.



Lakota East junior Hannah Fuller (left) and senior Sabrin Mohammed (right) represented Lakota at Middletown City Schools' Ignite 3.0. With only five minutes and 20 slides to get their message across, they each inspired educators from across the region with their passionate speeches about how best to help prepare students for the future.

WE ARE IN THIS

WEareLakota

LAKOTA

Lakota
SOCCER

TOGETHER

#WEareLakota



WE had lots of fun with Lakota families in our booth at this year's Fall Festival, hosted by Liberty Township. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to spin the wheel for fun freebies, sign our "WE are In This Together" banner, snap a photo or just learn more about the Lakota school district. [Click here to view our Facebook album from the Fall Festival](#). Next stop: West Chester's Great Pumpkin Fest on Oct. 12. See you there!

NEW BUSINESS

Nov. 2: High School Open Houses Welcome Future Families

Lakota is welcoming future and prospective students to visit its two high schools on Saturday, Nov. 2 for a community open house.

"We are excited to invite both up-and-coming students and families who may be considering Lakota to visit our open houses," said Superintendent Matthew Miller. "We are proud of the high-quality, student-centered education we provide and want others to see what exactly that looks like."

The open house comes during a year in which students are being empowered to truly own their learning. Student choice and voice are at the center of Lakota's personalized learning approach, further reinforced by the district's new 1:1 digital learning initiative for students in grades 6-12. Real world learning helps prepare students for one of the 4Es after graduation: Enrollment, Employment, Enlistment or Entrepreneurship.

The event hours are from 10 a.m. to noon at both Lakota East's and Lakota West's main campuses. Representatives will include teaching staff and students from both high schools, along with the four junior schools, who will be available to answer questions and share more about the student experience.

Help Us 'Stuff the Bus' for Reach Out Lakota

Lakota's annual district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota, running Oct. 18 through Nov. 1, continues to make an impact beyond West Chester and Liberty townships. The district has again invited neighboring districts to join the cause, this year teaming up with Middletown City Schools and Hamilton City Schools for the friendly crosstown competition.

"We're each working to pack a school bus with the most canned goods and other needed items, but in the end, the real winners will be all three of our communities," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller, noting that each district's final collection will go to a local relief organization serving their communities.

Lakota will kick off its drive at the Oct. 18 East vs. West football game (7 p.m. at West), where the community will be invited to bring their donations to the game. Donation bins will be available in every Lakota school through Nov. 1. The final collection points will be Nov. 1 at the last home games of the year (East vs. Hamilton and West vs. Middletown, both at 7 p.m.).

[Click here to view the event flyer](#), including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.

'The Parent Project' Series Kicks off Oct. 8

Our kids today face unprecedented pressures and problems. It is no wonder that many respond with negative, defiant or out-of-control behaviors. In partnership with the Butler County Parent Project Collaborative, Lakota is pleased to offer a special 10-week program to parents of students in grades 7-12. The "Parent Project" gives practical, concrete, no-nonsense tools, skills and resources to parents who are raising teens in today's world. Funding is provided by grants from United Ways, Strong Families Safe Communities and local foundations.

There is no cost to attend, but a commitment to attend all sessions is expected. Either both parents or an individual parent or guardian can attend. Parents meet one night a week for 10 consecutive weeks. Meetings will be held for three hours for the first six weeks, followed by two hours for the final four weeks. Two sessions are available:

Oct. 8 - Dec. 10

Every Tuesday at 6 p.m. (free dinner at 5:30 p.m.)
Hamilton - Fairwood Elementary, 281 N. Fair Ave.

Oct. 17 - Dec. 19

Every Thursday at 6 p.m. (free dinner at 5:30 p.m.)

Middletown - Highview 6th Grade Center, 106 S. Highview Rd.
No session on Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving)

Spots are limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please register in advance by calling (513) 867-7072. For more information, please visit www.parentproject.com.

Lakota Gifted Services Hosts Oct. 16 Movie Showing

Lakota Gifted Services will host a special showing of the movie "Angst" on Wednesday Oct. 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lakota West High School theater.

The film was created to help open up the conversation about anxiety and provide tools, resources and hope for those struggling with it. The movie is deemed appropriate for ages 10 and up. [Click here to view the trailer](#) and [register for the event here](#).

Lakota Learning Blog: The Logic Behind Trauma-Informed Teaching

It should come as no surprise that educators have to meet their students' social and emotional needs before they can ever tackle their academic growth. And where trauma is involved, that task can be even more challenging.

The latest "Inside Lakota Learning" blog shares how Lakota defines all forms of student trauma - it's not exactly what you'd expect - and how Lakota educators are using non-traditional approaches to help students get in the right mindset to learn. Student Services Director Lori Brown shares the district's emphasis on trauma-informed professional development practices, as well as upcoming learning opportunities for parents and community members.

Lakota educators are the voice behind the "Inside Lakota Learning" blog, which is designed to help educate the community about Lakota's learning strategies and oftentimes bridge the gap between how those strategies can be reinforced at home.

[Click here to read this latest post and to subscribe to alerts for future posts.](#)

Tickets for East's "The Little Mermaid JR." on Sale Now

Journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends in Disney's The Little Mermaid JR., adapted from Disney's Broadway production and the motion picture. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories, The Little Mermaid JR. staged by the Thunderhawk Theater is an enchanting look at the sacrifices we all make for love and acceptance.

In a magical underwater kingdom, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, longs to leave her ocean home — and her fins — behind and live in the world above. But first, she'll have to defy her father, King Triton, make a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, and convince the handsome Prince Eric that she's the girl whose enchanting voice he's been seeking.

This production is entirely student-run, with over 100 Lakota East students involved in the show, on and off stage. All tickets are \$10 at www.seatyourself.biz/lakotaeasthigh.

The Little Mermaid JR.
at Lakota East Thunderhawk Theater

Friday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 26 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 27 at 2:30 p.m.

September Video Update: A Look Around Lakota

In the September edition of "A Look Around Lakota" video update, Superintendent Matthew Miller shares just a few of the highlights and happenings during the month, including:

- Welcoming new families at the annual ice cream social;

- Future-ready Fridays at Hopewell Junior; and
- A new humanities lab at Lakota West Freshman.

[Click here to view this month's video update.](#)

October Social Media Challenge Highlights Difference-Makers

In honor of "National Make a Difference Day" on Oct. 26 and the district-wide "Stuff the Bus" food drive, we want to know all the ways the Lakota community is making a difference. That's why we're dedicating October's social media challenge to just that.

Whatever it is that you're doing to make a difference, get creative and share a post on social media. Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging #LakotaMakesaDifference.

You can participate without posting anything, too! Search on your social media site of choice for #LakotaMakesaDifference to "like" and share your favorite posts.

MLK Day K-12 Student Contest Call for Entries: Due Dec. 2

In preparation for our community's annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, all K-12 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 "20-20 Vision" theme challenges students to use their hindsight vision to identify Dr. King's single most important accomplishment. The contest is part of the community-wide observance of MLK Day, known as the "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" celebration.

All entries are due Monday, Dec. 2, 2019 at 4 p.m. All will be on display at the Jan. 20 community commemoration at Lakota West High School, where winners will share their entries with the public. [Click here to learn more about this year's MLK Day contest and download the contest guidelines and entry form.](#)

Fundraiser to Help West Graduate

A [fundraiser](#) is being held on Sunday, Oct. 6 to benefit 2016 Lakota West graduate Wyatt Moore. Moore was involved in a motorcycle accident that has left him unable to breathe on his own. He has sustained multiple injuries, including a broken neck. The fundraiser will be held at the Fairfield Pub, 465C Nilles Road in Fairfield. Proceeds will be used by Wyatt's family to offset some of the medical expenses.

Wellness Your Way Festival

Lakota families are invited to attend the [Wellness Your Way Festival](#) at the Duke Energy Center on Oct. 11-13. Free tickets, courtesy of the festival and the Jewel Never Broken Foundation, are available to the first 5,000 Lakota families who register for this three-day music, food and wellness festival. Register at: <http://bit.ly/CincyWYWF>.

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

- Monday, October 7
Jazz Concert (East & West)
at Lakota West Main Campus
6 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 8
Fellas & Fiction
at X-Quisite Cutz
6 p.m.
- Monday, October 14
Board of Education Meeting
at Plains Junior Media Center
6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 16
Angst, the Movie
at Lakota West Main Campus
6 p.m.
- Thursday, October 17
Story Time with a Lakota Principal (Creekside's Linda Pavlinac Hosts)

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

Meet the Candidates Night for Lakota's Board of Education

The Lakota District Parent Council is hosting a Meet the Lakota School Board Candidates Night on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Miami University Regional Campus (7847 VOA Park Drive). Parents, community members and stakeholders are invited to submit questions in advance to: <https://bit.ly/2TRNaFx>.

This Weekend: West's Arts & Crafts Show

The Lakota West Arts & Crafts Show, hosted by the school's PTSO, has been going strong for over 41 years, and is one of the premiere shows in the area. You'll find over 220 booths at this show which will be held at the West Main Campus on Union Centre Boulevard. There is also free on-site parking, and lunch and concessions will be available. Admission is \$2.

at IKEA
6:30 p.m.

- Monday, October 21
No School for Students (Staff Professional Development Day)
- Tuesday, October 22
Meet the Candidates for Lakota's School Board
at Miami University VOA Campus
7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 23
Community Conversation for Union Elementary Community
at Union Elementary
6:30 p.m.

**See Full
Calendar**

Saturday, October 5
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, October 6
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fellas & Fiction Continues Oct. 8

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, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. at X-Quiste Cutz (located at 7324 Kingsgate Way, Unit F in West Chester).

In partnership with a local barber shop, the program fosters a love of reading in young men while emphasizing the importance of relationship building. 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.](#)

Oct. 17: Story Time with a Lakota Principal

As part of its ongoing efforts to build community support around early literacy, Lakota's early childhood and elementary principals will take turns hosting "Story Time with a Lakota Principal" this school year.

On the third Thursday of each month, Lakota students are invited to IKEA West Chester (9500 IKEA Way). From 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the restaurant on the second floor, students can hear a Lakota principal share one of his or her favorite stories. Students are also encouraged to bring a book to exchange for another book they may take home with

them. Dinner may be purchased on an individual basis, as desired.
Principal hosts for the next few months are scheduled as follows:

Oct. 17 - Linda Pavlinac (Creekside ECS)

Nov. 21 - Mary Brophy (Hopewell ECS)



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