

A Look Around Lakota: E-News Edition

January 25, 2019



WE are Lakota



Students Share Words of Wisdom at 20th Annual MLK Day Event

"The common ground is that we are all Americans. The human pyramid is a reminder that we are one. It doesn't matter what you look like. You are an important piece of the pyramid. If one falls, we all fall, but if we stand strong together, we can do anything together."

These were the words of Wyandot Early Childhood School first-grader **Nicci Back**, as she explained her winning painting in this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. student writing and art contest. Her painting depicted a human pyramid in front of a U.S. flag.

"I want to thank all of our students, both on stage and out in our audience, who took the initiative to submit an entry," said Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller**, who introduced the winners at the 20th annual "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" West Chester Liberty MLK Day community celebration. "Your words are full of wisdom and inspire us all."

Back was one of 19 Lakota students who shared their work with hundreds of community members joining the Jan. 21 celebration at Lakota West High School, following a “March for Unity” that started at Union Centre Square. The students were honored for their responses to this year’s contest prompt: “In a world that is divided and polarized in so many ways, where do we find the common ground for unity so that everyone can learn to appreciate our differences and peacefully coexist?”

“We need to start looking past people’s differences and begin looking at how similar we all are. This can only happen if we work together trying to make our world a better place,” wrote Hopewell Junior eighth-grader **Helen Chuc**, challenging her audience to “be the change you want to see in the world.”

“People are afraid of the unknown and this fear may make them judge others unfairly. If we work to educate everyone, maybe they won’t be so afraid of things that are different,” suggested Hopewell Junior eighth-grader **Elena Prows** in her winning essay.

Every year, in preparation for our community’s celebration of MLK Day, all Lakota students are invited to participate in a contest that promotes self-reflection about diversity and inclusion in our community and nationwide. Nearly 500 pieces were submitted this year, with all of them now on display at different Lakota schools.

“The MLK Day event is special to our community because it is a celebration of what we have accomplished toward racial unity thus far, even as we recognize that we still have quite a ways to go. It is exciting to see so many facets of the community work together for a common purpose,” said **Gail Webster**, who has served as the MLK Day committee chair since she introduced it 20 years ago. Giving credit to the many hands that make it all possible, she describes it as a “labor of love.”

The West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance, led by President **Joe Hinson**, made a surprise appearance on stage at the end of the program to recognize Webster’s commitment to a program that “is envied by so many other local communities.”

[Click here to watch a video from the MLK Day program, produced by West Chester Township.](#)

[Visit Lakota’s website to see a complete list of student winners in this year’s contest.](#)



Inaugural 'WE are Lakota Honor Choir' Hosts Community Performance Jan. 26

With the return of daily specials this school year for grades K-6 has come yet another opportunity for sixth-graders to take their music skills to the next level.

“Music is an art form that needs to be performed,” explained Hopewell Junior School choir teacher **Jennifer Akers**. “Yet most of our students come to us in seventh grade with no concept of what an evening choir performance looks like. They don’t get that through their music special.”

With no way to simulate that other than to actually put one together, Akers and her colleagues decided to do just that. And so, they formed the first “WE are Lakota Honor Choir,” an optional program open to any Lakota sixth-grader wishing to get an authentic choir experience before moving on to junior school. More than 60 students, representing every elementary school, signed up for the choir.

The experience mimics the Ohio Music Education Association’s All-State choir, which brings musicians together for one weekend to learn several pieces and then perform them together. The new Lakota choir will meet for two rehearsals before performing together for a live audience. That performance is open to the public and will take place on Saturday, Jan. 26 at Lakota East Freshman School at 3 p.m.

The group is directed voluntarily by a committee of Lakota music teachers, including Akers, Susan Bauer, Jennifer Dietsch, Nicole Fink, Susan Hartman, Abbie Miller, Nicholas McGill, Alan Nordyke, Theresa Niehaus and Delaney Roberts. Several high school choir students are also participating as volunteers.

SHOUT-OUTS

SHOUT OUTS



**Five Seniors
Recommended
for Service
Academies**



**Top: Grace Keith, Isabel Steen
Below: Huakai "Joe" Qin, Anthony Amsbaugh, Samuel Billisits**



**Above: Coach Fishman with his family
Below: Lakota West & East Swim Teams**



Andy Fishman Hits 400th Career Win Milestone

Andy Fishman, Lakota West's girls basketball coach, hit a big milestone in his coaching career. Fishman had his 400th career win earlier this month. He is one of about 41 coaches in Ohio's high school girls basketball to reach this milestone, according to Ohio High School Athletic Association's unofficial records. Fishman's record stands at 400-131 since West opened up in 1997. *Photo Credit: Jenny Walters Photography*

Students Elected to Service Academies

Congressman Warren Davidson has nominated 21 students from the 8th Congressional district to one of the country's service academies; five of the 21 elected students were from a Lakota high school. Student nominees are picked based on leadership ability, athletic achievement and extracurricular activities. Davidson congratulated all of the students personally on Sunday, Jan. 13. The following students from Lakota were nominated:

U.S. Air Force Academy

Samuel Billisits - Lakota East

Grace Keith - Lakota East

Isabel Steen - Lakota West

U.S. Naval Academy

Anthony Amsbaugh - Lakota West

Grace Keith - Lakota East

Huakai "Joe" Qin - Lakota East

Isabel Steen - Lakota West

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

Samuel Billisits - Lakota East

Grace Keith - Lakota East
Huakai “Joe” Qin - Lakota East

Swimmers Set New Records

Swimmers from both Lakota East and West set many records this week at the Princeton Classic. At the finals, held at St. Xavier, the West girls finished 5th overall, with East finishing 11th. The East boys swim team finished 9th overall, with West coming in at 25th. The following swimmers set Princeton High School pool records this past weekend during the preliminaries:

200 Medley Relay (Lakota East)

Joseph Kelly
Adam McDonald
Jacob McDonald
Evan Devine

400 Medley Relay (Lakota East)

Joseph Kelly
Adam McDonald
Jacob McDonald
Evan Devine

50 Freestyle (Lakota East)

Jacob McDonald

200 I.M. (Lakota East)

Jacob McDonald

400 I.M. (Lakota West)

Jacob Ortwein

200 Backstroke (Lakota East)

Jacob McDonald

200 Breaststroke (Lakota East)

Adam McDonald

400 Freestyle Relay (Lakota East)

Joseph Kelly

Alexander Devine

Evan Devine

Jacob McDonald

200 Medley Relay (Lakota West)

Grace Glosson

Caroline Rice

Bridget Cramer

Paige Striley

400 Medley Relay (Lakota West)

Grace Glosson

Caroline Rice

Bridget Cramer

Paige Striley

50 Freestyle (Lakota West)

Paige Striley

1650 Freestyle (Lakota East)

Isabelle Gomez

400 I.M. (Lakota East)

Tara Witkowski

50 Butterfly (Lakota West)

Paige Striley

100 Butterfly (Lakota West)

Paige Striley

200 Butterfly (Lakota West)

Grace Glosson

200 Backstroke (Lakota West)

Grace Glosson

200 Freestyle Relay (Lakota West)

Paige Striley

Molly Fisher

Grace Glosson

Madison Roberts

AROUND LAKOTA



Mobile Dentist to Visit Lakota Elementary, ECS Schools

On Wednesday, 21 Freedom Elementary students got a full dental exam with x-rays -- without having to leave school. Lakota's new partnership with the Primary Health Solutions Mobile Dental Program made it possible.

A fully-equipped van, staffed with an insurance specialist, dental hygienist and dentist, is making stops at many Lakota elementary and early childhood schools, with the goal of having them visit every building during a school year. The dental unit can do routine care such as cleanings, as well as sealants, fillings, emergency care and more.

"This program gives students easy access to care," said **Lauren Brown**, Lakota's Manager of Health Care Services. "Parents don't have to take off work for dental visits, and the time away from school is minimal for students. The school nurses even schedule the dental appointments where it fits best in each student's day."

Each Wednesday, the Primary Health Solutions Mobile Dentist will be visiting a different Lakota school to complete initial exams. The van will return to schools to handle needed follow-up visits, and also return again for 6-month routine check-ups.

Primary Health Solutions works with many insurance companies, including Dental Care Plus and all four Medicaid plans. They also offer an income-based fee reduction and payment plans so no child will be turned away. If you need financial help or would like to talk to Primary Health Solutions, you can call them at (513) 454-1111 or visit www.myprimaryhealthsolutions.org.

Watch for information in your school newsletter to see when the mobile dental unit is coming to your school, as well as how to sign up your child for an appointment. If your child has an immediate dental need, please contact your school nurse and she may be able to make arrangements for an urgent visit at another school.



Jared Martens and Maddie Steiger finished in first and second place, respectively, in Hopewell Junior School's annual spelling bee.

Hopewell Junior Spelling Bee Part of National Video

Fulcrum. Fiddle faddle. Tomfoolery. These were just a few of the words seventh and eighth grade super-spellers at Hopewell Junior School faced during the annual spelling bee.

After taking the preliminary test in December, 40 students advanced to the school finals. Similar competitions are being held not only in our district and region, but throughout the country, with the Scripps National Spelling Bee as the end goal.

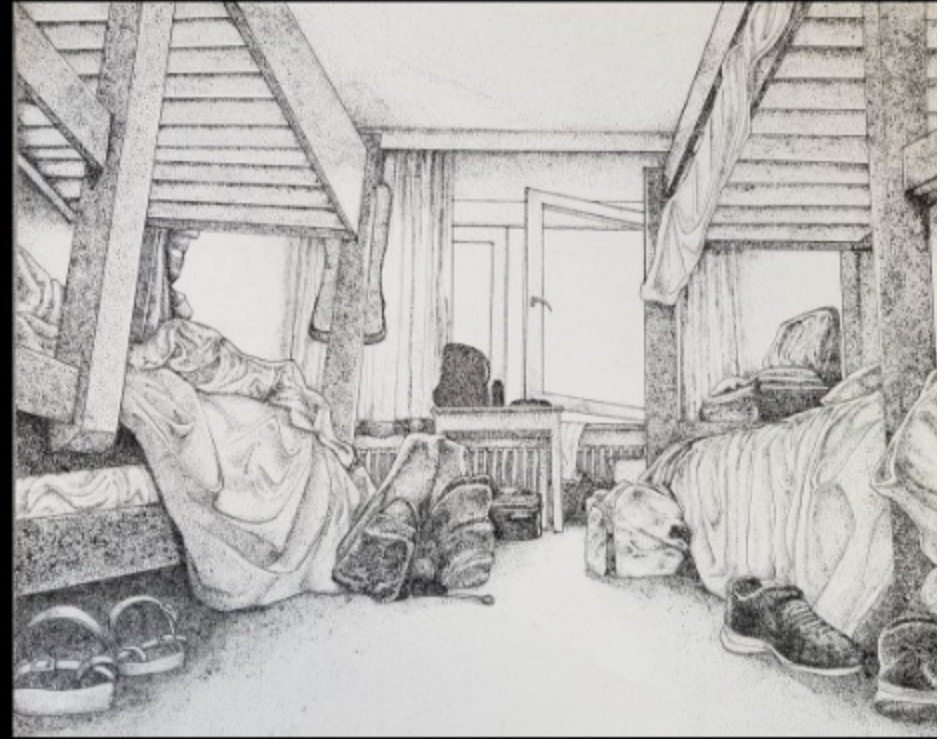
Nerves were running rampant at Hopewell prior to the start of the bee, and throughout the competition. "This is really nerve wracking," said eighth-grader **Karina Aslanyan**. "It wasn't that bad doing it in class because I wasn't expecting to get here," she noted. Aslanyan wasn't alone in feeling nervous. Bouncing knees and tapping topes were evident across the stage.

While there wasn't a prescribed set of words to study, **Zeena Bayyari** created her own study guide. "I've been paying attention to my spelling," the eighth-grader said.

Perhaps adding a bit to the nervousness, Valerie Miller from Scripps National Spelling Bee was on hand to record the competition. Miller is the Communications Manager for the organization that hosts the 90-year old bee and is documenting the journey students take to make it to the finals. "Viewers are familiar with the kids who make it to the National Bee," she said. "But they don't realize that this touches 11,000 kids along the way," she continued. Hopewell Junior School is one of several schools that are participating in the video.

After seven nail-biting rounds and two championship level words, **Jared Martens** reigned victorious by spelling the word "hydrogen." Perhaps it's a coincidence, but science happens to be Jared's favorite class. "We just started studying the elements!" he exclaimed. Martens attributes his win to being a good speller naturally. "I'm excited to be the champion," he said smiling.

Next up, Martens will complete an online test to qualify for the regional bee.



**Scholastic
Regional Art
Awards**

Some of Lakota's Gold Key winning art pieces include: "Post Game" by West's Trey Small (upper left), "Life on the Road" by East's Alexandra Fernholz (upper right), and "Coral Reef Rebirth" by East's Kalee Grayson (lower left).

Lakota Students Big Winners in Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Contest

Lakota high school students were big winners in the Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards with 99 students amassing 187 individual awards.

"I'm not quite sure but these could be record-breaking results," said West Visual Arts Teacher **Stephanie Gauer**. "National results will be posted mid-March so keep your fingers crossed until then that Lakota East and West receive some national recognition!"

In fact, there were so many winners, they all can't be listed here. [Click to view the art awards winners](#) and [the writing awards](#).

Awards include Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention designations, and the winning art pieces will be on exhibit at the Art Academy of Cincinnati from Jan. 28 through Feb. 8. The regional award ceremony will take place on Feb. 1 at the School for Creative and Performing Arts.

Gold Key winners will move on to the national competition in New York City that takes place in March.

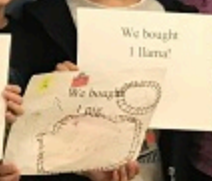
Lakota East had 40 students receive 81 awards in the regional competition, and 14 students won 18 Gold Key Awards. Forty-nine students from Lakota West received 96 awards, with 10 students winning 21 Gold Key Awards. A special congratulations goes out to West's **Trey Small**, who received a Gold Key for his portfolio which consisted of eight artworks and **Alyson Power** who received 12 individual awards.

In the writing awards competition, ten Lakota students won awards, with two Gold Keys presented to West senior **Tyson Jung**.

At Creekside Early Childhood School we...

Take care of others.
Take care of ourselves.
Take care of this place.

Creekside Kids Care



Creekside ECS second-graders are proud of what they were able to buy with the dollars they earned over winter break. Through the Heifer Project International, the group is arming several Ugandan families with a sustainable source of income in the form of livestock.

Creekside Econ Unit Teaches the Value of Hard-Earned Dollar

A lot of lessons were wrapped up in a recent economics unit that tasked Creekside ECS second-graders with just one homework assignment over winter break: household chores.

Creekside's second grade team all used a story titled "Beatrice's Goat" to help spark a conversation about economics terms like needs, wants, goods, services, producers and consumers. The book followed the true story of a Ugandan family who was able to nourish themselves and make a living through the milk produced by a single goat that was gifted to them through the Heifer Project International.

"They learned how resources can be used in many ways, how people are both producers and consumers, how people work to earn income that they can use to purchase goods and services, and how people often have to save their money to pay for the things they want or need," said Creekside teacher **Jennifer Martin**.

Martin emphasized the cultural lesson wrapped up in the project, too, explaining that many of her students were surprised by the living conditions and obstacles to obtaining an education in other countries. In fact, it was through their realizations that the project also became a service learning opportunity in which students brainstormed ways they could earn an income and then use their earnings to fuel a source of income for another family who needs it.

Creekside's 225 second-graders committed to handle such household chores as washing dishes, vacuuming, dusting and taking out the trash over winter break. In the end, they pooled their earnings, collectively raising more than \$1,500 - enough to purchase one llama, eight goats, one pig, both a trio and share of rabbits, five flocks of chicks and two flocks of geese for Ugandan families through the Heifer Project International.

"They all got to see the benefit of working hard for their money, not to mention the excitement that comes with putting those hard-earned dollars toward a good cause," Martin said.



Back row (left to right): Vice President Todd Parnell, President Julie Shaffer and Board Member Brad Lovell. Front row (left to right): Board Members Kelley Casper and Lynda O'Connor.

Lakota School Board Elects Leaders, Sets New Meeting Schedule

The Jan. 14 organizational meeting of the Lakota Board of Education began with the election of new officers, with all five current board members returning for another term.

The board elected Julie Shaffer for a second term as president during 2019 and Todd Parnell as vice president. Returning with Shaffer and Parnell to the school board are Kelley Casper, Brad Lovell and Lynda O'Connor.

The school board also approved a number of committee assignments:

- Policy Committee: Brad Lovell/Todd Parnell
- Community Engagement Committee: Kelley Casper/Julie Shaffer
- Finance/Business Advisory Committee: Kelley Casper/Lynda O'Connor
- Legislative Committee: Kelley Casper/Lynda O'Connor
- Facilities Committee: Brad Lovell/Todd Parnell
- Ohio School Boards Association Legislative Liaison: Kelley Casper

Board representation on the district safety committee will be open to all board members, as opposed to two, as it has been previously. Additionally, Casper and Shaffer will represent the school board at District Parent Council meetings as members of the community engagement committee.

Regular meeting dates were set for the second Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m., with exceptions in June, July and November. In lieu of the traditional second monthly meeting, monthly work sessions have been set. Please see the complete schedule at lakotaonline.com.



During a regional bus tour hosted by the Hamilton County Educational Service Center, Lakota East students (left to right) Landon Meador, Hannah Fuller, Grace Phair, Beakal Amsalu, Max Chandler, Caleb Hoch and Kelly Johantges planned the entire visit, articulating how student voice has transformed the physical and cultural shifts at Lakota East High School.

Regional Bus Tour Stops at East to Show Student Voice in Action

Lakota East High School was one of just four stops on a bus tour designed to showcase innovative learning spaces around the Greater Cincinnati region. Hosted by the Hamilton County Educational Service Center (HCESC), the tour gave 55 local educators and students an inside look at each school's journey to redesigning their spaces and leading change.

"There are amazing things happening all over the Cincinnati area and people aren't always aware because they are so busy in their corner of the world doing great things for kids," said **Meghan Lawson**, coordinator of instructional services for HCESC. "We wanted to bring everyone together for a world-class experience where they could travel the 275 loop to see what kinds of great things are happening for our kids."

While East was celebrated for successes like [the transformation of one of its locker bays into a flexible learning space](#) and its media center recently turned "Innovation Hub" to coincide with the rollout of 1:1 devices for students, Principal **Suzanna Davis** insisted that the emphasis at East be on how student voice made all of it possible and all the more impactful.

"No one can tell our story better than our students. Their voices are the driving force behind so many of the positive things happening around East every day," said Davis, who looked on as her students facilitated everything from the welcome aboard the bus to the send-off after the student panel.

Leading the charge were students **Landon Meador, Hannah Fuller, Grace Phair, Beakal Amsalu, Max Chandler, Caleb Hoch** and **Kelly Johantges**. Each one hosted a different group, highlighting on their tour the spaces that most personally represented student voice to them. Spaces included the theater, main office, Spark news magazine lab, Innovation Hub and select classrooms.

"Mrs. Davis has always been that person who has pushed us to be at the table and to talk and use our voice. I don't think we would have had this 'culture shift' without her," said junior Johantges, who chose to take her group to the main office. She has appreciated the administration always having an open door into the space where so many of the day-to-day decisions are made.

“In Spark, you pick a topic that you care about and you spend a month researching and writing about it. That’s the best way to amplify student voice,” said senior Meador, who made the Spark lab a major stop on his tour. “Student voice has been around for us for 30 years and now we’re taking what’s been done in the paper and putting it to work in the entire school.”

Students concluded their stop with a student-led panel in the Innovation Hub.

“The students were so incredibly invested and articulate and you can tell that they live, eat, breathe the work that they’re talking about; it’s real work,” Lawson said. “To see them lead the way and even plan this visit for us was really inspiring.”

[View All
District News](#)

FEATURED PHOTO



After learning about force and motion, second-graders like Lila Brink and Zachary Maslin (pictured above) at Wyandot Early Childhood School were challenged to make their own cardboard arcade games. Students used their knowledge of force and motion, as well as the design process, to plan and create their arcade games entirely from donated materials. On Jan. 24, the group hosted a cardboard arcade for all Wyandot kindergarteners and first-graders.

NEW BUSINESS

Jan. 26 CommUnity University Canceled; Next Session Set for Feb. 16

Please note that this month's regularly scheduled CommUnity University about social and emotional health at Miami University VOA this Saturday has been CANCELED. Details about the Feb.16 session will be available soon.

Hosted by Lakota's Outreach Diversity and Inclusion Department, each monthly session is led by expert Lakota staff and community partners and is designed to provide training and resources to parents, relatives, staff, community members and others who play a role in helping educate our youth. Each session is live streamed and includes breakfast, compliments of Overhead Doors, and free childcare provided by student volunteers. The sessions are free and open to the public, but registration is encouraged.

Save the Date for Lakota Pi Day: March 1

Tower building, city planning, a human brain, live animals, Star Wars characters, and so much more!

Save the date for Lakota Pi Day on Friday, March 1 from 6:30 - 9 p.m. for a chance to get your hands on some fabulously-fun math and science activities at over 40 stations. Pi Day, hosted by the Lakota LEADS (Lakota Enrichment and Academic Development of Students) parent booster group, will be held at Lakota East High School. The free event is geared toward students in grades K-8.

Please visit www.lakotaleads.org for more information on this year's event and direct any questions to lakotapiday@gmail.com.

Superintendent to Deliver State of the Schools March 13

Superintendent Matthew Miller will deliver the district's second annual "State of the Schools" address on March 13. The event is open to the entire community.

Miller will cover many topics, including current examples and future plans to support the district's recently approved 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 East High School on Wednesday, March 13. The 7 p.m. program will be preceded by a showcase of all 23 schools.

Save the Date: Lakota Military Commitment Ceremony April 30

Lakota is inviting the community on April 30 to help honor this year's Lakota East and Lakota West graduates who have committed to serve our country through any branch of the U.S. Military.

"At Lakota, we value those students who choose enlistment as a post-graduation option," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller. "Honoring them in this way for their commitment and service to our country is the least we can do. I look forward to celebrating their choice among their families and others in our community."

The ceremony will take place at the Lakota East Freshman Campus from 7 to 8 p.m. Attendees are invited to meet our honorary students during an informal reception immediately following the program. Honorary students and their families will receive an invitation closer to the event date.

Lakota LEADS Announces K-12 'Write Challenge' Writing Contest

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

This year's theme is *REFLECTION*. Students can submit an essay, narrative, poem or all three. Entries are due on March 10 and must be submitted electronically. Students and families can learn more about the Challenge and obtain entry forms on the [LEADS website](#). [View the Write Challenge flyer](#) to learn more or contact president@lakotaleads.org.

Lakota LEADS Hosts Parent Connect Series Session Feb. 7: What Colleges Want

Parents and students in grades 8-12 are encouraged to attend the next installment in the LEADS Parent Connect Series. On Feb. 7, from 7-8:30 p.m. at West Freshman Campus, learn the latest trends in college admissions.

Presented by LEAP, the session will tackle such topics as test preparation, college selection, applications and essays, financial options, and major and career choices. Learn about the top five factors for getting into college, college-ready strategies and how college admission officers view applicants.

Jan. 30 Lakota Parent Transition Series Topic: Navigating Social Security

Parents are invited to the next Lakota Parent Transition meeting on Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakota West's Community Room.

Kelly Draggoo, a representative for Cincinnati's Social Security office, will be presenting an overview of benefits available to families who have a child with a disability. She will also explain how to apply for Social Security Income (SSI) benefits. There will be time allocated to ask questions, and informational handouts will be available.

The meeting will last approximately an hour. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Haury at 513-644-1212, ext. 22082.

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, January 26
Try Band for West Feeder Students Grades 5-6
at Lakota West Freshman
10 a.m. - noon
- Saturday, January 26
WE are Lakota 6th Grade Honor Choir Performance
at Lakota East Freshman
3 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 30
Alternate Credit Options Information Sessions
at Lakota East Main Theater
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 5
Fellas & Fiction
at X-Quisite Cutz
6 - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 6
Coffee Chat with the Superintendent
at Einstein Bros. Bagels
8 - 9 a.m.
- Thursday, February 7
LEADS Parent Connect: What Colleges Want (Trends in Admissions)
at Lakota West Freshman Theater
7 - 8:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 11
Lakota Board of Education Meeting

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

Alternate Credit Night on Jan. 30

For students entering seventh through twelfth grade in the 2019-2020 school year, information sessions about Lakota's [College Credit Plus](#) (CCP), [Credit Flexibility](#), [Summer School](#) and [PE Waiver](#) options will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at Lakota East Main Campus.

Representatives from area colleges and universities will be available to answer questions about the CCP program.

Lakota East & West parents and students are invited to attend.

- Alternate Options for High School Credit (5:30 - 6:30 p.m.)
- College Credit Plus (7:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

[View the Alternative Credit Information Sessions flyer for more information.](#)

Thunderhawk Theater Performs 'Letters to Sala'

In a true story of survival, hardship, perseverance, and family, follow Sala Garncarz through her life in the labor camps of the Holocaust. Listen as she recounts the discovery of her forbidden letters in modern-day New York.

The Lakota East Thunderhawk Theater brings her letters to life in their production of Arlene Hutton's Letters to Sala. You will be transported through time to experience Sala and her life from the 1940s to modern day New York. You will meet her allies, witness her heartbreaks and feel her determination to survive.

Performances are at Lakota East High School Jan. 31 through Feb. 2, daily at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at the door.

2019-2020 Preschool Registration Open through Jan. 31

at Plains Junior School
6:30 p.m.

[See Full
Calendar](#)

The registration application for Lakota's tuition-based preschool program is now available and will run through Jan. 31.

All applications must be received or postmarked by Jan. 31 to be considered for the lottery. The lottery will take place at the beginning of February and notices of admission will be mailed mid-February to all applicants. Applications received after the Jan. 31 deadline will be placed on a waiting list.

Parents can [visit the preschool enrollment webpage](#) to download the application and access more detailed information about the enrollment process and preschool program. Applications are also available at any of the six early childhood schools. Please direct any questions to the preschool office at (513) 870-5378.

Feb. 6: Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

Lakota's next Coffee Chat is set for Wednesday, Feb. 6 from 8-9 a.m. at Einstein Bros. Bagels (9216 Allen 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.](#)

Fellas & Fiction: Feb. 5

Every month, all Lakota boys in grades 1-6 are invited to "Fellas & Fiction," a special community-sponsored early literacy program hosted in partnership with Lakota Schools. The next program will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. at X-Quisite Cutz (located at 7324 Kingsgate Way, Unit F in West Chester).

On the first 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, made possible by the Community Foundation of West Chester Liberty.

[View the Fellas & Fiction event flyer to learn more.](#)



5572 Princeton Road, Liberty Township, OH. 45011-9726

(513) 874-5505

lakota@lakotaonline.com