

## A Look Around Lakota: E-News Edition

November 16, 2018





# VETERAN'S DAY

## New Student Groups Take Action this Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day gave two new student groups at the high school an opportunity to shine, but most importantly, do what they set out to do this school year: honor our local veterans.

Although the recent [Tri-State Honor Flight](#) brought the Patriotic Firebirds and East Veterans Network together in a unique way last month, both groups are forging their own path. Even just a few months after their inception, both have several impactful programs underway, not to mention even bigger plans for the future.

Lakota West secretary **Kristin Henley** started the student group at West that has grown to about 15 members so far. With a son who recently graduated and joined the military, her main inspiration comes from past Firebirds currently serving our country as well as those students with loved ones in the military.

"They don't always get the support they need from family, so I decided it was important to support them in a way that we could as a Firebird family," Henley said. "Especially for those committing to the military, I don't want them to leave the nest without knowing they have a safe place to fall again and a group of people that loves and supports them."

That outlook explains the hundreds of letters and care packages the group has sent to active military, in addition to gift cards they have gifted to family members at home. In observance of Veteran's Day, the group hosted a breakfast for veterans and their families in partnership with Texas Roadhouse. The program included a special presentation by West choir singers.

The group is also planning to support a literacy program of the United Service Organization that provides a book to both the person on active duty and his/her child so they might read it together.

Veteran's Day at Lakota East was marked by a three-year student-led tradition that the new Veterans Network helped amplify this year. The program invites veterans and their families to parade down Main Street following a breakfast and program that features student speeches and performances by the band and choir.

This year, the student group helped organize a video presentation featuring three of the 50-plus veterans being honored. It was shown to all students before they gathered on Main Street for the fanfare. "It means a lot to them to know that high school students want to give them the thanks they deserve," said instructional aide and group advisor **Sally Barker**. "The video really helped set up the parade and show students its significance."

East senior **Grace Keith**, who has had aspirations to join the military since junior school, has been laying the framework for the new club the last two years.

"Combining my values with my future goals has led me to have this passion for serving those who have served us," Grace said. "They have earned it, and anything I can do to repay just a small part of the sacrifices they have made for our nation is something I want to do."



The group presented the first-ever 22 Push-Up Challenge at the school's fall pep rally, inviting all student-athletes to do 22 push-ups in honor of the 22 veterans who, on average, commit suicide every day. In addition to a school-wide "Stocking for Soldiers" effort, they also had a presence at the East Craft Show. "We weren't selling anything," Barker said. "It was more about getting out in front of the community and letting them know what we're all about."

Next up is "Valentines for Veterans", a spring bicycle ride, Lakota's Military Commitment Ceremony and of course, the Honor Flight tradition they hope to continue for many years to come.

"When I started the club, I wasn't sure what the reception would be," Grace said. "But to see not only the school, but the community, getting involved and excited about the club is very exciting."

Through meals, assemblies and special presentations, schools district-wide found unique ways to honor our local veterans this Veteran's Day. At Freedom, for example, the student who raises and lowers the flag each day partnered with local boy scout troops to perform a respectful flag retirement ceremony. He captured the ceremony on video to share at his school's Veteran's Day assembly, which honored local veterans through song.



## Lakota Students & Staff Present, Perform at State Conference

Lakota Local Schools was well represented at the Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference. The annual event, held in Columbus, includes three days of in-depth learning for school administrators and board members from across the state.

The Student Achievement Fair showcases innovative programs taking place in Ohio's public schools. Two groups from Lakota were chosen to highlight their achievements at the one-day fair. Four student artists from Lakota West High School impressed attendees as they demonstrated their skills. Visitors to the booth were taken on a journey through the eyes of the artists with a vivid art gallery and the opportunity to talk to the students as they were painting and sketching at the fair.

Students from VanGorden Elementary educated visitors about their prosthetic hand project. Using the [Enable the Future website](#), the students were able to print pieces for prosthetic hands on the school's 3D printer. Once assembled by the students, the hands are then distributed to children in need around the world.

Conference attendees were also treated to a reunion performance by the original members of Liberty Junior School's Bucket Drum Club. The group was one of only five groups from around the state chosen to perform a 20-minute set. [Click here to learn more about the Student Achievement Fair](#).

Lakota's students weren't the only district representation in Columbus. Visitors were able to choose from over 150 learning sessions, including several that were led by Lakota staff and students. The first spotlight session of the conference featured Superintendent **Matthew Miller** presenting with Dr. John Marschhausen, superintendent of Hilliard City Schools. Their two-hour session, entitled Design Thinking for Actionable Leaders, engaged the audience in thinking of solutions to overcome obstacles they face in their school districts.

Attendees were also able to hear from Lakota Treasurer and CFO **Jenni Logan** and how the district turned an antiquated salary schedule for staff into one that creates long-term viability.

With school safety as a top priority, Lakota Chief Operations Officer **Chris Passarge** and Officer **Jeff Newman** of the West Chester Police Department, and Lakota West school resource officer, addressed security assessment and planning for districts.

On the the third day of the conference, attendees were able to hear from Lakota high school students during two learning sessions. **Landon Meador**, a senior at East, presented with Miller and School Board Vice President **Brad Lovell** about hosting an ed chat on Twitter. The audience learned about the the district's weekly #LakotaEdChat and how to start one of their own. They also had the opportunity to participate in a special #OSBALakotaEdChat during the session.

"The EdChat has brought so many great ideas to the table and allows for educators, students and community members to brainstorm and discuss ideas, pertaining to the given topic," said Landon. "This is a simple networking tool that any school can use to further brand their image, get engagement from students and parents and develop ideas they can use in the classroom to better education," he continued. "Being able to teach the basics to a roomful of people is phenomenal because no one will use it the same way because the ed chat can be molded into what anyone wants it to be."

The conference concluded with a session about Hope Squads and the importance of starting this peer-to-peer suicide prevention program at schools. Dr. Keith Kline, CEO of Cincinnati based Grant Us Hope, presented along with **Suzanna Davis**, principal of Lakota East. While Kline gave the audience



background information about Grant Us Hope and Hope Squads, Davis spoke about bringing the program to schools. Two Hope Squad members, **Amitoj Kaur**, a senior at West, and **Nick Parr**, a junior at East, both spoke about the importance of the organization and the difference it is making at their schools. “We’ve seen a lot more positivity in our building,” said Nick. “I just think that the general atmosphere at East has grown on the connectivity theme for the year. I think both the East & West Hope Squads play a big part of that.”

Davis told the audience that students are already talking about friends and classmates who may be in crisis. The training Hope Squad members go through gives them the tools to help their peers. Amitoj agrees, as did the audience. She was treated to a round of applause after stating, “Your students are ready for a change and it’s up to you to empower them.”

Landon was proud that school leaders from around the state were able to hear from Lakota students. “In a district where student voice is encouraged and expected daily, who better to speak on behalf of programs like ed chats and Hope Squad,” he said.

## SHOUT-OUTS



Lakota East  
Spark's Katie  
Kruback,  
Landon  
Meador and  
Lauren  
Maier



Lakota West senior  
Javier Bahns



Lakota East's Girls  
Cross Country Team





## East Girls Cross Country Place Fifth at State Championship

Last Friday, Lakota East students and staff gave the girls cross country team a proper send-off to the OHSAA State Championships at National Trail Raceway in Hebron, Ohio. The Greater Miami Conference and District champions placed 5th among all Division I teams in Ohio. Teammates included sophomore **Kelsi Harris**, senior **Ali Neumeier**, junior **Danielle Horter**, freshman **Cali Reynolds**, sophomore **Paxton Oberhaus**, junior **Hailey Wilson** and senior **Lindsay Isom**.

## Javier Bahns Earns Perfect ACT Score

Just one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the the ACT test earn the top composite score of 36, and you can add Lakota West senior **Javier Bahns** to that group!

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.

## East's Spark Wins 14th National Pacemaker Award

The Spark, Lakota East High School's student news magazine, has added several national awards to its growing portfolio. For the 15th time, the publication has been named a 2018 Pacemaker Award winner from the National Scholastic Press Association. The Spark has been named a national print finalist 18 times since 1997. The Spark also brought home a 2nd place finish in "National Best of Show".

Five issues from the 2017-2018 school year were submitted to be considered for the award. Several areas were judged, including reporting, design and editorial leadership. The 48 print finalists were announced in August, with the winners named at the national convention in November.

In addition to the Pacemaker Award, junior **Alex Fernholz** was the third place winner in the “Cartoon of the Year” category. Recent graduate **Richard Giang** took third place in the “Cover Design of the Year” category for news magazines, while recent graduate **Sidney Li** received fifth place as the 2018 “Writer of the Year”.





*Plains Junior seventh-grader Corrine Goglewski (right), pictured with her mother, Beth, and twin sister, Carly, is one of six individuals featured on a new Netflix series called “Dogs” premiering Nov. 16. Corrine’s episode follows her journey to receive her service dog, Rory.*

## New Netflix Series Features Plains Junior Family

Several Plains Junior seventh-graders will make their first television appearance on a Netflix documentary series called “Dogs” premiering on Nov. 16.

Although not the focus, their parts support an emotional story about Plains Junior seventh-grader **Corrine Gogolewski** and her family. They were followed by a production crew for an entire month last fall while she and her twin sister, Carly, were sixth-graders at Endeavor Elementary. They follow the family’s journey through receiving, training and welcoming Corinne’s service dog, Rory, into their family.

Corrine suffers from a rare form of epilepsy in which frequent grand mal seizures come without warning and cause her to stop breathing. Rory is literally “another set of eyes and ears” to monitor Corrine’s condition. He has been trained to recognize a universal scent that precedes the onset of a seizure and then bark to give warning.

While she is a girl of few words, Corinne did have this to say about Rory: “He’s been my best friend.” Corrine’s mother, Beth, went on to explain that their newest addition to the family has given her daughter a newfound sense of freedom and the rest of the family a sense of comfort and relief.

“She plays select soccer, Thunderbird basketball and is on the swim team,” Beth said. “She is just a determined young lady that despite her disability, doesn’t let it stand in the way of her doing what she loves. Rory has been a wonderful gift to us when you consider he’s allowing her to continue living her life.”

The Gogolewski family was selected from hundreds of possible stories for the 6-episode series, each documentary telling a different story of the emotional bonds between their owners and their four-legged companions. Corrine is the youngest to be featured and joins others from Syria, Japan, Italy and Costa Rica.

“There are so many people in our shoes who have kids with special needs. It’s a very lonely thing and nobody quite understands what you’re going through,” Beth said. “To be able to share our story and let other families like us know that there’s hope is a great opportunity.”

While even the Gogolewskis haven't gotten a sneak peek at their family's episode, they have high hopes that it will be uplifting and encourage empathy.

[Watch the trailer to preview the "Dogs" series premiering on Netflix Nov. 16.](#)



*Lakota's swim team started the season out of the water this year.*

## Lakota Swim Team Sets Goals Before Diving In

What will you do with your daily deposit of 86,400 seconds? **Dennis Beck**, science teacher and head coach of Lakota's swim team, asks this of his swimmers on a regular basis.

Instead of diving right into the season, Beck and his team decided to switch things up a bit this year and focus on cohesiveness - both in and out of the water. “We really wanted the kids to become more of a team,” he explained. “With the team so large and our athletes in four buildings, it seemed like a good way to start the season,” he continued. While the high schools must compete separately, both Lakota East and West swimmers practice together.

For the first four days of practice, the team met out of the water, interacting with speakers and one another. Topics covered include nutrition, motivation and goal setting. **Matthew Miller**, superintendent of Lakota Local Schools, also met with the team, encouraging the swimmers to embrace the season and enjoy every minute. “We put a big emphasis on building culture and relationships at the start of the school year,” Miller said. “It’s great to see that carry over to our coaches and athletes.”

West senior **Michael Richards** has seen the new start to the season help mentally prepare the athletes and set goals. “The biggest benefit for me has been from the nutritionist,” he explained, noting that he is paying more attention to his caloric intake and water consumption. “We’ve also integrated the stretches that the athletic trainer taught us into our dry land workouts,” Michael continued.

With the majority of practice taking place in the pool, Beck and his team of coaches wanted to be intentional about emphasizing the importance of teamwork. The idea seems to be paying off. “The feedback we have received has been pretty good so far,” he noted. While he may mix it up in the future by bringing in a speaker mid-season, he is pleased that communication between the swimmers, both with one another and the coaches, is improving.

While Michael learned something from each of the guest speakers, his favorite was Jim Place, a retired coach who told stories about athletes he coached. Michael respects the views shared about hard work. “Hard work takes dedication, grit, goal-setting and sacrifice.”





## **Sport Stacking at Shawnee, Hopewell Exercises Brains & Bodies**

In addition to being part of a worldwide event, students at Shawnee and Hopewell early childhood schools got to exercise both their bodies and their brains in gym class last week.

The stacking and unstacking of plastic cups - done at lightning speed at the professional level - is officially termed “sport stacking” and is gaining popularity around the world. While gym teacher **Tracy Henderson** extended the activity to all her students, the kindergartners she met with on Guinness World Records Day answered the worldwide challenge put forth by the World Sport Stacking Association: Set a world record for the most people sport stacking at multiple locations on one day.

“The fact that students and adults from all over the world were also participating was very interesting to them,” Henderson said.

During her Nov. 8 classes, Henderson demonstrated her own speedy sport stacking ability before breaking it down so that students could practice the basic combinations individually. They then paired up with a classmate to focus on speed before being given the creative latitude to construct their own pyramids.

“Research has shown that speed stacking improves hand-eye coordination, motor skill development, reaction time, dexterity and mental focus, ” Henderson said. “It also activates both sides of the brain and increases reading comprehension skills. This is something I’ll incorporate into many other activities we do all year long.”





**NOV. 27:**

Help transform  
#GivingTuesday  
into #GiveLakota  
to support the  
**Lakota Schools  
Foundation!**

**#GiveLAKOTA**

This Giving Tuesday

## **#GivingTuesday Kicks Off Year-End #GiveLakota Campaign**

The Community Foundation of West Chester Liberty, in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, invites the community to transform #Giving Tuesday into #GiveLakota this Nov. 27, in support of The Lakota Schools Foundation. [Watch this video for a message from Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller and Erin Clemons, CEO of the Community Foundation of West Chester Liberty.](#)



The Lakota Schools Foundation was established at the Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty to build a sustainable source of funding for current and future needs in the district beyond normal budget constraints, and provides an avenue for community members and alumni to support a strong future for Lakota schools. A "Fund A Need" auction at the Community Foundation's 2017 Key Event raised more than \$23,000 for the Lakota Schools Foundation.

"This partnership with Lakota to fund the future of our schools is so important," said Erin Clemons, Community Foundation president & CEO. "By building a sustainable source of support we will be able to help meet need in the schools for generations of students."

The goal of this #GivingTuesday effort is not only to raise dollars for The Lakota Schools Foundation but also to raise awareness in the community about this important resource, said Clemons.

#GivingTuesday, recognized annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities in all 50 states and in countries around the world. Millions of people have come together to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live. The Community Foundation has recognized #GivingTuesday for the past three years, raising dollars for local nonprofit endowments. This year's day of giving will solely benefit The Lakota Schools Foundation.

"We are grateful for our partnership with the Community Foundation and its willingness to continue making the Lakota Schools Foundation a priority, and to our community's willingness to invest in keeping our schools strong" said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "We want to continue to provide more opportunities for our students without always leaning on the local tax base," he continued. "Creative partnerships like this will help to sustain us into the future."

The Lakota Schools Foundation was built on the success of The Lakota Fund, established at the Foundation in 2004 to bring innovative teaching tools and programming to the classroom through small grant awards. To date, the Lakota Fund has awarded more than \$60,000 in grants to fund projects such as educational iPad apps and classroom technology, ESL curriculum, early childhood music and art programming, and after-school tutoring workshops, among many others.

The Lakota Fund is still accepting grant applications throughout the year. Please visit [www.wclfoundation.com](http://www.wclfoundation.com) for more information.

#GivingTuesday is the opening day of the giving season: a reminder of the "reason for the season." Please remember to #GiveLakota on November 27.

[To learn more, get involved and donate, visit the "Give Lakota" page on the Community Foundation's website.](#)





## **Student-Athletes Recognized During Signing Events**

Lakota East and West Athletic Departments hosted their first college athletic signing events of the year on Nov. 14, the first day of the NCAA National Letter of Intent signing period for fall sports (except football).

Congratulations to these student-athletes who signed early commitments to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level.

### **Lakota East:**

**Riley Adleta:** Volleyball (Urbana University)

**Casey Berglund:** Baseball (Anderson University)

**Jada Bouyer:** Volleyball (University of Toledo)

**Garrison Hamilton:** Baseball (Ohio Dominican University)

**Grayson Hamilton:** Baseball (Ohio Dominican University)

**Madison Hart:** Soccer (Mount Saint Joseph University)

**Jenna Kralik:** Soccer (Ohio University)

**Kate Larbes:** Soccer (Morehead State University)

**Sydney Larson:** Softball (Ohio University)

**Katherine Picray:** Crew (Ohio State University)

**Kyle Schmidt:** Golf (University of Dayton)

**Savannah Schwarz:** Volleyball (University of the Cumberlands)

**Bash Wieland:** Basketball (Bellarmine University)

**Emily Willms:** Lacrosse (Otterbein University)



## Lakota West:

**Sydney Benning:** Basketball (Drury University)

**Jacob Brownley:** Golf (Ohio Dominican University)

**Sophia Denison:** Soccer (St. Louis University)

**Alex Kelker:** Cross Country/Track (University of Toledo)

**Alina Miller:** Gymnastics (Arizona State University)

**Laura Russell:** Golf (Maryville College)

**Remmington Steckler:** Softball (Martin Methodist)

**Cameron Wesley:** Softball (Wright State University)



*Students from Lakota's Career Readiness Academy collaborate with others during Project Chaos.*

## Lakota Students Collaborate to Solve Real World Challenges

Three school districts joined together with Butler Tech to put real-world learning into practice at an event known as Project Chaos. Approximately 100 students from Lakota, Loveland, Middletown and Butler Tech worked together to offer solutions on how best to solve the problem of making transportation available to everyone.

Over the three-day experience, students from Lakota's Career Readiness Academy (CRA) collaborated with students from the other districts at the Procter and Gamble GYM and Butler Tech's School of the Arts. CRA teacher **Lisa Kiesewetter** was enthusiastic about the experience. "Being able to participate at the P&G Gym environment, and out of their normal element provided an opportunity to build collaboration skills," she said. Kiesewetter went on to explain that the students were grouped by the color of their Project Chaos t-shirts they received on the first day, which further encouraged collaboration among the districts.

**Isaiah Erickson** was happy to be a part of the event. "It was a good learning experience because it was different than regular school," he said. He also values the personal lessons he learned. "One thing I did was learn to work with strangers, find my voice and explore leadership skills that I didn't know I had."

The students worked together to come up with ideas on how to better provide transportation to people in lower income brackets in order to ensure job security. Ideas ranged from solar powered vehicles that would not require money for gas to companies matching what employees pay for gas prices or car services such as Uber. Company policy was also brought up, with students suggesting that policies supporting employees with transportation issues be created.

Participants were introduced to the challenge through a video presentation and speakers. One presenter shared statistics about the number of children who die every year because their parents are unable to provide transportation to hospitals. Stunned by this, **Alina Koenig** began brainstorming ideas for traveling doctors to visit patients at their homes. "There are issues you don't think about," she said. "Talking about them makes you realize how big they can be."

Groups of eight to 10 students worked together to brainstorm ideas, with each person having a role. All ideas were supported, with students asking the question "how might we" to encourage thoughts and ideas. **Lindsay Williams** saw value in working with new people. "It was really nice to see how everyone came together even though we're different - to come together and learn and put our minds all together as one and work together even though a lot of us are from a lot of different walks of life."

[View All  
District News](#)

## FEATURED PHOTOS





*These happy Heritage ECS kindergartners (Miss Morgan's class) just finished their Thanksgiving lunch. Schools across the district invited family members to join students for the special meal.*









## NEW BUSINESS

### November 'Listen Up Lakota' Features Hope Squads

The November edition of “Listen Up Lakota,” a monthly radio program powered by WMKV 89.3FM, will feature an interview with Lakota West counselor and Hope Squad advisor **Michael Anderson** and Lakota East senior and Hope Squad President **Alyssa Longworth**. The pair discuss their involvement in helping shape a new peer-to-peer suicide prevention program at both Lakota East and Lakota West high schools.

The second half of the program will feature another East senior, **Jaden Bennett**, who will discuss what's new at the Edge Teen Center.

Tune in at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 or 1 p.m. next Thursday, Nov. 21. WLHS/WMKV is a member-supported public radio with its studios located at Maple Knoll Village in Springdale.

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### #LakotaGivesThanks on Social Media

As we count down the days to Thanksgiving break, Lakota is asking staff, students, parents and residents to help us count all the ways we are blessed as a school community. Looking back at the last year, who or what gives you a good reason to be thankful for your Lakota experience?

Through Nov. 20, post one or more photos that best capture the people, places, programs or things that make Lakota a better place. We invite you to share your personal words of thanks on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or all three!

To add your note of thanks to the growing list, be sure to tag Lakota Local Schools and include #LakotaGivesThanks in your posts. In the end, the district will literally paint a picture of what thankfulness around Lakota looks like.

Join and follow the conversations at #LakotaGivesThanks.

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### Community Conversation on Proposed District Strategic Plan Set for Nov. 26

Lakota will be hosting a “Community Conversation” that will focus on the school district’s proposed new strategic plan. This is an opportunity to get an advance look at the district’s new vision, and the way it plans to achieve it.

This meeting, which is open to everyone, will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26, at Plains Junior High School. The session will be held in the Innovation Hub. Signs will be posted to guide visitors to the room.

The Community Conversation program, now in its seventh year, allows school board members, the superintendent and other school district leaders to get input about schools and education, and the challenges and opportunities for young people, from all stakeholder groups. This meeting, as noted above, will provide an advance look at the new strategic plan that has been developed. The school board will be meeting in the near future to consider adopting the plan.

Lakota’s Community Conversations use a unique format. They’re led by a professional facilitator, so that our school leaders can focus on listening and not on running the meeting. Most of the talking will be done by you, the students, parents and residents who are there. We will also spend time in small groups, where many people are more comfortable sharing their ideas.

The sessions are engaging and energizing and have led to new and innovative ways Lakota can best meet the needs of our students and larger community. Both students and parents are welcome. Please make every effort to attend this important event.

## 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

## ON THE RADAR



- **Saturday, November 17**  
**[Family & Parent CommUnity University](#): Understanding Gender Expansive Youth**  
at Miami University VOA  
8 a.m. - noon
- **Monday, November 19**  
**[Board of Education Meeting](#)**  
at Plains Junior  
6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, November 21**  
**[No School \(in lieu of conferences\)](#)**
- **Thursday, November 22 - Friday, November 23**  
**[Thanksgiving Break \(District is Closed\)](#)**
- **Monday, November 26**  
**[Community Conversation: District's Proposed Strategic Plan](#)**  
at Plains Junior School  
6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, December 3**  
**[Most Likely to Succeed Showing](#)**  
at Lakota West Main Campus  
6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 4**  
**[Fellas & Fiction](#)**  
at X-Quisite Cutz  
6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 5**  
**[Coffee Chat with the Superintendent](#)**  
at Einstein Bros. Bagels  
1 - 2 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 5**  
**[Community Conversation: LGBTQ Issues in Schools](#)**  
at Plains Junior  
6:30 p.m.

**See Full  
Calendar**

### **Tomorrow: CommUnity University Session on Understanding Gender-Expansive Youth**

Lakota's new monthly learning series, Family & Parent CommUnity University in partnership with Miami University Voice of America, continues with a session focused on understanding the complexities of gender-expansive youth.

in the spirit of love, curiosity and respect, Lakota parents, staff and residents are encouraged to attend Saturday, Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to noon at Miami VOA Learning Center, located at 7847 VOA Park Drive.

The three-part program includes the powerful story of a local family and a mother's journey of loving and accepting her transgender child. A panel discussion complete with parents, professionals and medical experts will provide further insight into the struggle non-conforming students face.

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. [Click here to register for the Nov. 17 CommUnity University session.](#)

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### **MLK Day Student Writing, Art Contest: Entries due Nov. 26**

In preparation for our community's 20th 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 "Common Ground" theme challenges students to address how we united in a world that is divided and polarized in so many way. The contest is part of the community-wide observance of MLK Day, known as the "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" celebration.

Entries should be submitted to the student's building principal or to the West Chester or Liberty Township Administration offices. The deadline for entering is Monday, November 26, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.

[Click here to access the entry form and more contest details.](#)

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### **Special Documentary Showing of Most Likely to Succeed Dec. 3**

Lakota Local Schools invites our parents and community members to attend a special showing of the documentary feature film *Most Likely to Succeed* on Dec. 3 from 6:30 - 9 p.m. at Lakota West.

The movie looks at the challenges facing America's education system in today's world and explores innovative approaches to re-imagine what school could look like for our children. A discussion will take place following the movie with district personnel.



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

(513) 874-5505

[lakota@lakotaonline.com](mailto:lakota@lakotaonline.com)