

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

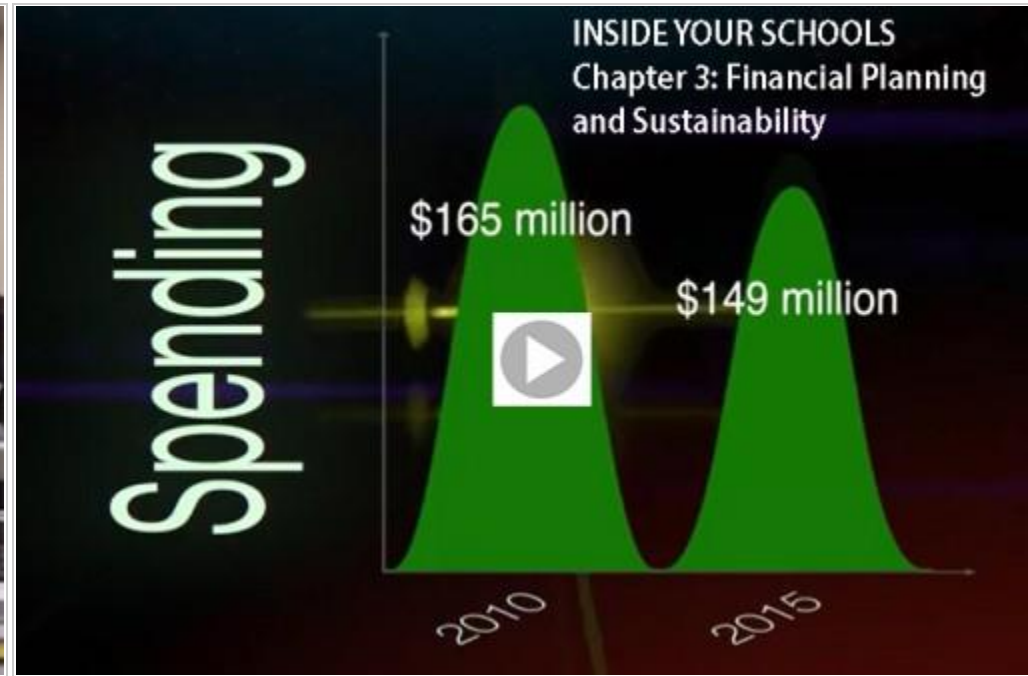
November 5, 2016

## Leading the Way

*New This Week: 'Inside Your Schools' Video Series Features Lakota Academics, Finances*



The next two chapters in Lakota's new eight-part video series, "Inside Your Schools," are now available. Please take a moment to learn more about Lakota's



The third video in the series features Lakota Treasurer Jenni Logan. Lakota has come a long way in recent years to gain financial stability. This is marked by a number of cost saving efforts to restore some student services and continue

[Premier Academic Programs](#) and approach to [Financial Planning and Sustainability](#).

[Last week's introduction](#) from Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann capitalized on all of the different priorities shaping the personalized educational experience we strive to create for every single Lakota student.

This week, we dig deeper into Lakota's premier academic programs. Chapter two in our series highlights the range of classes and experiences offered from an early age to match many different student interests and career paths. We discuss the many options available to help students prepare for college or a career, depending on their personal goals and future plans.

adding value to Lakota's educational program. All of this adds up to conservative financial planning to stretch taxpayer dollars as long as possible. The most recent five-year forecast predicts a balanced budget and rising cash balance through 2021.

Stay tuned for the remaining chapters 4-8 over the next few weeks. Next week, we'll focus on "The Power of Technology & Data" and "Embracing a Diverse Community." The complete series will be available at [www.lakotaonline.com/insideyourschools](http://www.lakotaonline.com/insideyourschools).

## Around Lakota

**Lakota Gives Back: East Senior Publishes, Gifts Inspirational Book to Other Lakota Students**

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# REWRITING YOUR STORY

ERINN AULFINGER

Lakota East senior **Erinn Aulfinger** is combining her passion for writing with her compassion for helping an up-and-coming generation of Lakota girls.

“When I went to middle school and high school, I noticed many of my friends struggling with the consequences of low self-esteem,” Erinn said. “I wanted to do more than just help them, but help stop the problem before it started for other girls.”

This revelation shaped the whole premise of her Girl Scout GOLD Award project: a book of inspirational stories she would publish and make available to the parents of Lakota’s 1,300+ sixth-grade girls. Why girls? Through her research, Erinn discovered that girls experience the biggest drop in self-esteem between 9 and 11 years old, that is both deeper and longer-lasting than that of boys.

For more than a year, Erinn consulted with hundreds of organizations, expert sources and successful women of all ages who had overcome their own adolescent struggles. She even collaborated with Always’s “Like a Girl” campaign to gain funding for her project. Her efforts culminated in over 600 hours of research and service, well above and beyond the 100 hours required of a GOLD Award recipient.

“Erinn’s project and her intentional decision to connect it back to the Lakota community is the definition of service,” said Lakota East Principal Suzanna Davis. “It’s a soft skill that’s taught at so many points during a Lakota student’s educational experience and it’s great to see it put into action in such a thoughtful and productive way.”

The finished product, "Rewriting Your Story," is 83 pages of inspirational stories written from the perspective of older girls and women who have overcome their own challenges with self-esteem. It also includes expert-driven exercises to help girls better understand and appreciate themselves and others, and tips to avoid the common pitfalls girls begin to face in during adolescence, like bullying, body image and stress management.

“I am so grateful that Erinn has provided such an inspiring resource for girls and their parents to open doors to communicate about very



**Erinn Aulfinger** recently produced and published a book of inspirational stories to help boost adolescent girls' self-esteem. Part of the Lakota East's senior's Girl Scout GOLD Award project involves providing the book to Lakota sixth grade girls, at their parients' discretion.

challenging issues in our current day society,” said Independence Elementary Counselor Kelly Carstens, who has received feedback that the book is a great conversation starter and a good way to test a parent’s perception versus reality.

It was Erinn’s discovery in junior high of Lakota East’s co-curricular journalism program, a nationally-recognized monthly magazine called “Spark,” that helped her find her own footing and direct her post-graduation plans.

Like the work she’s done through Spark, this project was another big learning experience for her.

“I actually learned what I hope the girls reading the book will learn,” Erinn said. “It opened my eyes to the fact that girls and women alike struggle with self-esteem. It helped me realize that no one is alone, and that’s really the whole purpose behind the book.”

The books are being distributed to interested parents of any Lakota sixth grade girl at two optional evening parent meetings. The final meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Lakota West Freshman Campus.

Parents are also invited to contact their elementary school counselor to request a copy of the book.

## Union Elementary's Standing Desk Pilot Looks to Support Learning

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*Fifth-grader **Jacob Kimble** tries one of the standing desk stations that Union Elementary is piloting. Several studies indicate such desks aid in student learning and foster better concentration.*

It's a strange view – instead of the traditional neat rows of students seated at their desks, at Union Elementary students have the option to stand to do their work.

For some students, the standing desk option can lead to improved learning and better focus. The approach aligns with Lakota's commitment to personalizing the educational experience for all students.

“We were eager to see the impact on student learning, allowing for non-traditional, yet appropriate, movement in the classroom,” explains Charlotte Elia, intervention specialist at Union Elementary. Thanks to the school's PTSO, a standing desk was recently purchased for each classroom.

Research conducted by the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota indicates that standing desks may help students move and channel their energy during class, leading to them being more alert, reducing behavior problems and boosting learning levels.

Union Elementary Principal Ben Brown adds, “We wanted to pilot this as a way to adapt to the needs of our students. By offering the standing desks as an alternative for our students, we're allowing them to control their energy levels. When they begin to feel fidgety or off-task, they have the option to use the standing desk. We don't expect adults to be seated and still for hours at a time, why should we expect our students to do so?”

Erin Owens, director of Lakota's Curriculum & Instruction for K-6 grades, agrees. “We recognize that in order for students to be successful we must teach them how to learn as much as what to learn. The idea is that having the option to stand or sit puts the focus on learning by allowing students to decide what they need in order to do and be their best.”

Elia adds, “We have already seen great success with students using the standing desks in ways that allow them to remain actively engaged in instruction and independent work for longer periods of time.”

[Click here](#) for an article in NEA Today regarding standing desks.

## Cherokee Elementary Students Team Up "To Help a Friend"



*Kaitlyn Johnson, Ellie Tito and Jessica Reder are working together to raise money for a young girl's hospital expenses. The Cherokee Elementary fifth-graders have organized a baked goods booth and other efforts.*

“We’re doing this because we want to help,” says Cherokee Elementary fifth-grader **Jessica Reder**. And that’s why a group of students at Cherokee are holding a baked goods booth at Cheetahfest, the school’s fall festival.

Their motivation is Charley, a three-year-old family friend who was born with a chromosomal disorder called Gorlins Syndrome. Charley spent the first year of her life living at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she underwent stem cell and chemotherapy treatments and is currently again in the hospital, fighting lung issues.

“The girls’ kindness and determination to help are a real inspiration,” states Cherokee Elementary Principal Valerie Montgomery. “Not only have they thought through the best way to raise the money, but they have incorporated several ways to ensure Charley and her family know that people here care. I’m proud of them and this great work they’re doing. Their spirit is part of what Cheetah P.R.I.D.E. is all about.”

P.R.I.D.E. is the school's Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program for developing character qualities in students and is a model used throughout Lakota.

Knowing the high medical expenses the family faces, Jessica wanted to help – and, through her enthusiasm, recruited several other students to help. So the group of four – Jessica, her younger sister **Lucy Reder**, a third-grader at Cherokee; and **Kaitlyn Johnson** and **Ellie Tito**, also fifth-graders – approached Montgomery with their proposal to sell baked goods and bracelets at the event.

In addition to the booth at Cheetahfest, the school is able to accept cash and check donations on behalf of Charley's family.

“At first we thought of holding a running race, but then decided selling stuff at Cheetahfest might raise more money,” says Kaitlyn. The girls have been planning their event for about three months and have a goal of raising \$1,000, with all proceeds going to Charley’s family.

"We even decided we should have something for people who won't want to buy a cookie," adds Ellie, explaining the addition of the bracelets. And the bracelets serve another purpose – to remind the wearer to think of Charley and send good wishes her way.

"Charley's colors are grey and purple, so that's our theme," says Jessica. "We wanted her to know what we're doing even though she's in the hospital, so we put together a package that her family will open. She can wear her bracelet and read the cards and know that all of this is to support her."

[View All District News](#)

## New Business

*Announcements & Opportunities*

### Video Summary of Lakota's Community Conversations

Since 2012, Lakota's Board of Education and administration have been hosting numerous "community conversations" as an ongoing way to hear from our local residents. They are a way for community members to share their concerns and comments on general education themes as well as specific issues and topics that have arisen over the years that merit community input.

[A new video](#) summarizes a busy October of Community Conversations, which focused on themes such as the new superintendent search, the district's evolving partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty, and the role sports should play in 21st century education.

While all of the sessions are open to the public, some have a specific theme or audience. There are currently two upcoming Community Conversations: Nov. 17 at 10 a.m. at Liberty Junior High School, which will focus on gathering comments from junior high students, and a dinner conversation Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. at Faith Community United Methodist Church for parents of students who attend the Tuesday community dinners at the church.

## On The Radar

*Quick Links & Reminders*

### Empty Bowls Luncheon on Saturday

The Empty Bowls community luncheon will be held on Nov. 5 at Liberty Center's Sabin Hall, with two seatings: one at 11 a.m. and the second at 12:30 p.m. Donations are \$25 per person.

Sponsored by Caring Community Collaborative (C3) as part of its mission to address community needs in West Chester and Liberty townships, the Empty Bowls program supports Reach Out Lakota and the Faith Alliance Summer Lunch Program.

It's a great opportunity to lend your support to the two food programs that serve our local West Chester and Liberty families - and view

[Click here](#) for more information about this program, including meeting notes from all of the past conversations.



*Above is a screen shot from the Community Conversations video summary of the October 2016 sessions that cover the new superintendent search and other topics.*

## **No School for Students on Nov. 8, 23-25**

Just a reminder that there is no school for students on Tuesday, Nov. 8 due to Election Day. Staff will still report for professional development.

There will also be no school for students on Wednesday, Nov. 23 in lieu of conferences and the district will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## **Superintendent Search Community Input Requested**

The Lakota Board of Education is leading the selection process for the school district's next superintendent. With the goal of making a final selection in March 2017, the school board is seeking a new leader who can begin at the conclusion of the current superintendent's contract in August 2017.

the great artwork provided by Lakota students in the handcrafted bowls, posters and placemats. For more information, email [contact@C3ohio.org](mailto:contact@C3ohio.org).

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## **Career Panel Provides Insight Into Variety of Jobs**

Learn the inside scoop from eight professionals when they share their insights during a Career Panel Night on Nov. 10. Presented by Lakota's Gifted Services department, the panel discussion will be held at 7 p.m. in the theater at Lakota East.

[Click here to view the flyer](#) or [click here for additional information about Lakota's Gifted Services](#).

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## **East's Craft Show on Nov. 12/13**

The Lakota East Craft Show will be held on Nov. 12 and 13 at the high school's main campus. The event is open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, with a \$2 general admission fee. Early bird entry from 9 - 10 a.m. is available for a \$5 admission charge. Visitors can also attend the show on Sunday between 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



With such an important task ahead of them, the Board is soliciting community input early in the process. All parents, staff members, students, business owners and residents in the Lakota community are encouraged to complete and submit a [Search Profile Criteria Questionnaire](#) by **November 11, 2016**. Completed questionnaires may be dropped off at Lakota's Central Office or returned via email, fax or through the US Mail; please see the third page of the form for details. Note that, due to the selection timeline, any questionnaire returned after the deadline will not be included in the input compilation.

[Click here](#) for more information about the superintendent's search, including a timeline of the selection process.

Please visit the [show's website](#) for more information, including a complete list of artisans. [Click here for a flyer with more details.](#)

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## Lakota's Got Talent Set for Nov. 15

It's almost time for Lakota's favorite talent show – Lakota's Got Talent, sponsored by the Community Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy. The event will be held Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the Lakota West Freshman Campus.

This year, the annual talent show has been widened to include both staff and students. Individual and group performances are welcome. Tickets are \$5 and there is a \$25 family cap. Doors open at 6 p.m. [Click here to view a flyer](#) with more details.

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## Students Invited to Enter MLK Jr. Contest

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual *Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity* event to honor the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will take place on Jan. 16, and includes a contest for all students in grades K-12 who reside within the Lakota Local School District.

This year it focuses on Dr. King's idea of the 'Beloved Community'. Students in junior high and high school are encouraged to submit in writing the equivalent of a two-minute speech. Elementary students may respond through the artistic medium of their choice or through writing. Groups are also invited to enter with skits, songs, artwork or videos that can be presented within the two-minute time limit.

Entries are due on Monday, Nov. 28. [Click here for more details and an entry form.](#)

## Photo of the Week

## Westside Wins 'Reach in for Reach Out Lakota' Competition

The annual "Reach In for Reach Out Lakota" food drive, hosted by the Lakota Board of Education, concluded at the East vs. West varsity football game on Oct. 28.

Lakota East won the football game 21-14, but the west side schools brought in the most food drive donations and were declared the winners of the food drive competition.

Lakota West students are shown here accepting the travelling trophy on behalf of Lakota's west side schools. Shown left to right: West Principal **Elgin Card** and students **Kiantae Webb**, **Courtney Whited**, and **Corey Piper**.

Look for a full recap of the district-wide food drive competition in next week's newsletter.



## Upcoming Events

### Event Spotlights

- [Friday, Nov. 4 - Nov. 6](#)  
**Lakota East Theatre Production:  
Seussical Jr.**  
Nov. 4 - 7:30 p.m.  
Nov. 5 - 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Nov. 6 - 2:30 p.m.

## Lakota In The News

### Community Coverage

#### Dayton Daily / Journal-News

[Lakota school leader search cheaper, has more public input](#)

## Latest E-Flyers

### What's News This Week?

As a reminder, E-Flyers is Lakota's way of distributing information about programs, classes, events and opportunities happening in our schools and around the community. Rather than sending flyers home with students, we are now posting all approved information on the E-Flyer page, making it

- [Tuesday, Nov. 8](#)  
**No School for Students (Election Day/ Teacher Workday)**
- [Monday, Nov. 21](#)  
**Board of Education Meeting - Central Office**  
7 p.m.
- [Wednesday, Nov. 23](#)  
**No School for Students (in lieu of conferences)**
- [Thursday, Nov. 24 - Friday, Nov. 25](#)  
**District Closed for Thanksgiving**
- [Wednesday, Nov. 30](#)  
**Coffee Connections with the Superintendent, Treasurer - Cappucino Depot**  
2 - 3 p.m.

[See Full Calendar](#)

[Projection: No Lakota budget deficit until 2020](#)

[Cincinnati.com](#)

[Lakota lowers fees to play sports, band](#)

[Empty Bowls fundraiser supports summer lunches](#)

[Journal-News](#)

[Butler County bucks trend: Area schools remain polling places](#)

easy for families to access all current opportunities. Here is a listing of all of the new district and community-sponsored flyers for this week.

#### Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [November Community Volunteer Force Opportunities](#)
- [Butler Fury Soccer Tryouts – Nov. 13 \(U9-U17\)](#)

[All Current E-Flyers](#)

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