

**Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.**

October 29, 2016

## Leading the Way

*New 'Inside Your Schools' Video Series, Junior High Teams Win State*



*Lakota's junior high girls cross country team - the 2016 State C*

Click the image to view the first in a new video series titled, "Inside Your Schools." This introductory chapter and more editions will be accessible at [www.lakotaonline.com/insideyourschools](http://www.lakotaonline.com/insideyourschools).

## From the Superintendent's Desk: New Video Series Defines Lakota Experience

The priorities and principles guiding Lakota's daily work fall into three main areas: Instructional Excellence, Community Engagement and the foundation of it all, Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability.

The premiere educational experience our teachers and support staff strive to provide to *every single* student is one marked by personalization and experience. It's about recognizing that one student's measure of success may look very different from the next student's – and then giving each one plenty of opportunities to explore their passions and interests and achieve their personal definition of success.

Such a personalized approach, that values student opportunity and experience, requires us to focus on the strength and variety of our academic programs. Technology is a tool that continues to help us make data-driven instructional decisions and provide students with a modern academic experience. We also embrace an increasingly diverse student population and work hard to create inclusive learning environments that meet the needs of all types of learners.

We consider our parents, business leaders and the larger community partners in all of this work. That's why we are always looking for more opportunities for open dialogue, information sharing, and mutually beneficial partnerships. Our unwavering focus on service learning and philanthropy serves both the community that supports us and our students who we hope will carry that attitude of civic responsibility into adulthood and the communities they'll shape someday.

To provide this kind of experience requires responsible spending of taxpayer dollars, driven by efficient daily operations. It means maximizing student opportunity through long-term, sustainable financial planning. We are committed to this standard of excellence and consider the financial implications of every decision we make.

**A new video series, "Inside Your Schools," introduces the priorities that define our work and the areas we value when it comes to creating a personalized**

## Junior High Cross Country Teams Rule S

The 2016 Lakota junior high cross country program has done something that has never been done before: They not only won a state championship, they won the boys 2016 OHSAA State Championship and the girls 2016 OHSAA State Championship.

Lakota junior high cross country has never gone to the state meet as a team this year, in addition to commanding as a team, Lakota's the junior high team won the boys and girls state championships. The boys team had seven athletes who placed in the "top 10" individually: **Cali Reynolds** - 9<sup>th</sup>; **Zach Beneteau** - 8<sup>th</sup>; **Zach Plotkin** - 7<sup>th</sup>; **Kelsi H Spletzer** - 2<sup>nd</sup>; and **Cole Cronk** - 1<sup>st</sup>. Cole, Carly and Cali have all three been crowned GMC Champions, so being a front runner is nothing new to them. The boys' victory from behind was electrifying for the fans, because of the power of the boys' team at the very end of the race.

In addition to the individual success, the junior high teams also dominated the regular season the teams won a combined 32 trophies and nine championships. Both Lakota's junior high boys and girls were able to stand atop the podiums, besting their season-long competition by 9 and 10 points respectively.

Congratulations to our 2016 State Champions!

Lakota boys cross country team members: **Zach Beneteau, Cole Cronk, Grant Martin, Alex Merk, Grant Miller, Zach Plotkin, Liam Quebman, Zach Rust, Ethan Vaught** and **Jacob Wilson**.

Lakota girls cross country team members: **Rachel Anderson, Kayla Gonzales, Carly Graham, Kelsi Harris, Anna Kluesener, Caitlyn Kozerski, Rachel McGarvey, Calista Reynolds** and **Carly Spletzer**.

experience for all our students. Watch this introductory chapter and stay tuned for more editions over the next few weeks. The complete series will be available at [www.lakotaonline.com/insideyourschools](http://www.lakotaonline.com/insideyourschools).



*Congratulations to the 2016 OHSAA state champions - Lakota boys cross country team.*

## Around Lakota

### **Student Model UN Clubs Develop Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving**

*Both Lakota East and West's Clubs Off to Strong Start*



**Sarah Aftab and John Ferguson** (in center, front) lead Lakota East's Student Model UN club, which develops presentation and negotiation skills. The two were recently recognized at a Board of Education meeting for their role in forming the club. Here they pose with (from left) board members Ray Murray and Julie Shaffer, Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann, Treasurer Jenni Logan, board president Lynda O'Connor and Ben Dibble.

It seemed to be a heated discussion focusing on the Arctic Circle. How should the numerous resources of this vast area be shared: divided equally by all of the nations that have territory within the boundary, based on percentage of population of those countries or under another formula that ensures the neediest countries benefit the most? And who decides?

While the topic may seem a bit abstract, the learning is more in the process: how to discern the problem, articulate one's viewpoint and then to negotiate with others until an agreement can be made. That's the purpose of a fairly new club at Lakota East and one which continues to flourish at Lakota West: the Student Model UN.

The student-led group typically meets twice a month, acting as an actual United Nations block. A different topic is covered each session and students pick countries that have a vested interest in the discussion and solution. From world hunger to human trafficking, to space exploration and the possibilities of WWII, the students take turns presenting their respective country's stance and then work together to brainstorm viable solutions.

Supported by Lakota's Gifted Department, the clubs are examples of the numerous enrichment opportunities for all students.

According to Patty Piron, 7-12 gifted support advisor at Lakota East, "It's amazing where they take each other in their analysis and discussion. So much critical thinking and actual examination of the root problems occur each week and the students really push one another to find answers that serve as many as possible."

At Lakota West, the group continues to expand, both in number of students involved and in their activities. According to Marian Weber, English teacher and Model UN advisor, this is the second year for the group, with the students attending several UN conferences and hosting a similar UN conference at Lakota West last year.

The group at Lakota East, which is led by seniors **John Ferguson** and **Sarah Aftab**, already has about 15 consistent attendees and five of the group have participated in outside activities such as UN conferences. In fact, both of the leaders have won awards at recent conferences and the group is planning to hold its first event late this spring.

"I am constantly impressed by the leadership this group shows," states Piron. "They are very vested in learning, not only about the topics covered, but about how to lead and to work as a team."

# Five-Year Forecast Extends Positive Financial Outlook for Lakota

*Balanced Budget, Cost Containment Practices Result in Rising Cash Balance*

Lakota Treasurer Jenni Logan’s presentation of the five-year forecast at the Oct. 24 school board meeting was packed with good news for Lakota’s long-term financial stability.

A balanced budget since 2013, paired with a growing list of cost containment practices, has supported a rising cash balance that has grown from less than 60 days in 2013 to more than 160 days in 2016. While there is no way to predict the timing of another levy, the district's rising cash balance could help offset any deficit spending through 2026.

“The conversation is no longer about cutting student programs and services to keep our head above water,” Logan said. “It’s about responsible spending and planning even beyond the next five years to stretch taxpayer dollars.

“It’s about how to save in our daily operational costs so we can to redirect some of those dollars into the programs that will maximize student opportunities, while also keeping us off the ballot as long as possible,” she continued.

Since the last forecast in May 2016, even the predicted spending deficit for 2020 has shrunk from \$3.1 million to \$900,000. If local and state tax revenues remain fairly stable over the next several years, as predicted, that trend can be attributed to the long-term impact of the district’s cost containment efforts.

Those practices are marked by such efforts as regular debt refinancing, which has saved Lakota over \$6 million in debt repayments, and substantial energy usage efficiencies. A new approach to employee healthcare benefits has stabilized those costs. Even a recently negotiated teacher contract has ensured long-term cost savings and contributed to collective staff wages that are predicted to be \$93.5 million in 2021, as compared to \$96 million in 2010.

“The forecast is just a snapshot in time and always assumes lots of different variables,” said Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann. “But even where some revenues may be unpredictable, our commitment to responsible spending and saving will never waver, and that will take us a long way.”

[View All District News](#)

**New Business**  
*Announcements & Opportunities*

**On The Radar**  
*Quick Links & Reminders*

## Boys & Girls Club Groundbreaking Set for Oct. 30

A ground-breaking ceremony open to the public, for the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester Liberty will be held this Sunday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. The site of the new youth club is expected to open late next year. Special Guest speakers will include the former Speaker of the House John Boehner, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and the Regional Director from the Boys & Girls Club of America, Dana Pink.

[Click here](#) for more information and frequently asked questions about the collaboration agreement between Lakota and the Club.

## Superintendent Search Stakeholder Meetings Scheduled

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.

With such an important task ahead of them, the Board is soliciting community input early in the process. The goal of the remaining sessions is to identify the values, skills, and experience they should be looking for in Lakota's next leader. Community members will have several opportunities to share their input, including the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, Nov. 1, 6:00 p.m. at Lakota's Central Office, stakeholder meeting for Finance Committee, Business Advisory Council and Township Trustees
- Tuesday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m. at Lakota's Central Office, stakeholder meeting for the general public

All parents, staff members, students, business owners or residents in the Lakota community are encouraged to complete and submit a [Search Profile Criteria Questionnaire](#) by **November 11, 2016**. Those attending an input session are encouraged to bring the completed form to the session; or you can mail or fax it to the address/fax number identified on the second page of the form.

## Student Fee Holiday Ends Monday

Just a reminder that the deadline for Lakota's student fee holiday end on Monday, Oct. 31. Take advantage of this offer, which eliminates the \$2.00 convenience fee typically required of any online payments for student fees or lunch accounts. [Click here](#) for more information about student fees.

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## JTHF Book Drive Ends Monday

There's still time to help brighten the holiday season for patients at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Liberty Campus.

Lakota early childhood, elementary and junior high schools are collecting new books, stickers (any type), journals, music CDs, movie DVDs (no VHS tapes), art supplies and small unopened dollar store toys through Monday, Oct. 31. For questions about the drive, contact Zoe Kelley at [jthbookdrive@hotmail.com](mailto:jthbookdrive@hotmail.com) or 404-4977. Click here to learn more about the [Jeffrey Thomas Hayden Foundation](#).

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

## Calling All Student Writers, Artists and Performers

### *Help Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

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 January 16. There are many ways that students and community members can be part of the celebration.

There is a contest for all students in grades K-12 who reside within the Lakota Local School District. This year it focuses on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s idea of the 'Beloved Community' where poverty, hunger, and homelessness are not tolerated -- and racism and all forms of discrimination are replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.

Students are asked to interview someone with whom they would not normally sit with at lunch due to differences in background, culture, or other demographic or social barrier. After listening to each other and sharing ideas about what our town can do to become a Beloved Community for all, students should write about the solutions discovered and tell how they plan to implement them.

Students in junior high and high school should submit in writing the equivalent of a two-minute speech. Elementary students may respond through the artistic medium of their choice or through writing.

In addition to an individual's entry, classes, troops, or youth organizations for students in grades K-12 who would like to enter the contest as a group project are invited to be as creative as possible, with skits, songs, artwork or videos that can be presented within a two-minute time limit.

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

This year's event will also look a little different from previous celebrations. The March for Unity will begin at noon at the Clock Tower in West Chester and head to the Lakota West

## Community Conversation Slated for Nov. 2

The Lakota Board of Education's community listening program continues next week with a community conversation hosted by Reach Out Lakota. The event will be held at the West Chester Presbyterian Church from 6:30 - 8 p.m.

"[Community Conversations](#)" is in its fifth year, giving parents, residents and business owners a venue for providing input to district leaders on the future direction of Lakota Schools. Visit the [Community Conversations webpage](#) for a complete schedule of upcoming meetings and other resources.

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## Expert Shares Tips for Worry-Free Discipline

Living with gifted children can sometimes be filled with intensity. Perfectionism, anxiety, overexcitabilities and more create unique stressors for the family. This presentation, "How to Take Great Care of Yourself and Build Functional Kids," shows participants how to guide children to exhibit positive, pro-social behaviors in a low-stress manner.

**Wednesday, Nov. 2**  
6:30-9:00 p.m.

cafeteria where all marchers will be treated to a free lunch donated by local restaurants. A program will immediately follow, which will include contest winners sharing their entries.

Those interested in planning the event for MLK Day are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the Liberty Township Fire Headquarters at 6682 Princeton-Glendale Road. If you would like to help judge the contest winners this year, the judging will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., also at the Liberty Township Fire Headquarters.

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

The Lakota East Craft Show will be held on Nov. 12 and 13 at the high school's main campus. Over 220 booths, featuring exhibitors from near and far, will be assembled in one spacious indoor shopping venue. Concessions, lunch, and plenty of on-site parking will also be available for shoppers.

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.

The event is sponsored by the Lakota East PTSO, and all proceeds help to fund student programs and scholarships. Please visit the [show's website](#) for more information, including a complete list of artisans. [Click here for a flyer with more details.](#) Mark your calendars to attend one of the region's largest holiday arts & crafts shows!

Lakota East Freshman Auditorium  
7630 Bethany Road

Scott Ervin, aka The Kid Whisperer, guarantees that during this session, parents and guardians will learn a simple skill that will allow them to never have an argument with their child ever again!

Come learn more and bring a friend! You do not need to be a LEADS member to attend. [Click here to RSVP](#) for the session.

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## Empty Bowls Community Luncheon Nov. 5

Saturday, November 5 is the Empty Bowls community luncheon 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 the great artwork provided by Lakota students in the handcrafted bowls, posters and place mats.

For more information, email [contact@C3ohio.org](mailto:contact@C3ohio.org)



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## Career Panel Night 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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## Lakota's Got Talent Set for Nov. 15

It's almost time once again 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.

Prizes will again be awarded to the top performance and the "People's Choice Award". 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.

## Photos of the Week

### "Trunk or Treat" Fun

Schools across the district are celebrating Halloween with Trunk or Treat events.

Last weekend at Cherokee Elementary, lines and lines of decorated cars filled the school's parking lot. Families could purchase dinner and costume and trunk decorating contests were held (the Star Wars-themed trunk shown here was the top winner).



At Endeavor Elementary, about 500 kids attended their event which included "Spooky City" (an indoor not-so-haunted house), concessions, a photo booth, fortune teller, contests and more.

The winning frog-themed trunk is pictured above.

## Happy Halloween!

### Upcoming Events

#### Event Spotlights

- Friday, October 28  
**End of Reach In for Reach Out Lakota Food Drive: East vs. West football game**
- [Tuesday, November 1](#)  
**Superintendent Search Stakeholder Meetings (held throughout the day)**  
1 - 7 p.m.
- [Wednesday, November 2](#)  
**LEADS Parent Connect Session at the Lakota East Freshman School**  
6:30 - 9 p.m..
- [Wednesday, November 2](#)  
**Community Conversation Hosted by Reach Out Lakota (at West Chester Presbyterian Church)**  
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- [Friday, November 4-November 6](#)  
**Lakota East Theatre Production: Seussical Jr.**  
Nov. 2 - 7:30 p.m.

### Lakota In The News

#### Community Coverage

#### Hamilton Journal-News

[Lakota's treasurer chosen as the best in Ohio](#)

[Service learning a big part of education at Lakota](#)

#### WCPO - Channel 9

[Lakota East runner Dustin Horter is on a mission](#)

### 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 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.

#### District-Sponsored:

- [Lakota East Craft Show \(Nov. 12 & 13\)](#)
- [Lakota West Basketball Camp - Gr. 2-6 \(Dec.19-21\)](#)

#### Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [Internet Safety Seminar at Four Corners - Nov. 6](#)
- [Stallions Football Registration - Age 5 to Grade 6](#)
- [Lakota's Got Talent \(Nov.15\)](#)

Nov. 3 - 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 4 - 2:30 p.m.

- [Tuesday, November 8](#)  
**No School for Students (Election Day/ Teacher Workday)**

[See Full Calendar](#)

- [MLK Beloved Community Contest: K-12 \(Nov. 28\)](#)

[All Current E-Flyers](#)

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