

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

October 21, 2016

## Leading the Way

*District-Wide Food Drive, New Community Engagement Program Take Center Stage*



*Joel Korpusik, Becca Finke, Madison French, Braden Kling and Jack Sweeten, all sixth-graders at Independence Elementary, pose with some of the school's Spirit Week materials. These and other students in the school's Team Inspire Ambassador Group came up with the concept and created the posters and announcements, each day focusing on a different fun activity and collection of items.*

*Rod Hampton, owner of X Quisite CutZ, keeps his scissors and comb moving as **Brandon Freeman**, a student at Woodland Elementary, reads along with Matt Boaz, father of a Lakota East graduate. The new program fosters a love of reading in elementary student boys with the encouragement and interaction of adult mentors.*

## Creative Activities Support 'Reach In for Reach Out Lakota' Food Drive

Whether it's crazy hair and wearing tie dyed clothes or an incentive of a dance party, Lakota schools are incorporating plenty of creative ways to generate donations for the ninth annual district-wide food drive.

Starting this past Monday, Oct. 17, schools have gotten into the 'Reach In for Reach Out' effort that benefits Reach Out Lakota. Hosted by the Lakota Board of Education, the initiative is the single largest source of donations all year long for the local non-profit food and clothing pantry.

At Independence Elementary, the drive is student-led, with the school's Team Inspire collaborating with the PTA on a special spirit week. Tied to the character trait of the month, be responsible, students are showing their responsibility to the community by bringing in their canned food donations.

According to Kelly Carstens, school counselor, the week is designed as a way for students "to reach out to our community and to one another. The 79 students in our 6th grade Team Inspire created the idea and made posters and announcements. Each day focuses on a different fun activity and a collection of items."

In addition to 'Reach In for Reach Out,' students are also collecting books for the Jeffrey Thomas Hayden Foundation and Children's Hospital – and the students themselves. "We are encouraging new friendships and empathy as we help everyone to feel empowered

## New 'Barber Shop, Books & Boys' Creates Community Support for Literacy

A pretty simple concept is driving a new community reading program at Lakota for elementary student boys: Read a book while you get your hair cut.

Part of Lakota's continuing efforts to promote early literacy, "Barber Shop, Books & Boys" kicked off this Tuesday with a pilot run in two school communities. In partnership with a West Chester barber shop, Lakota is inviting all elementary boys to receive a free haircut, during which they read a book of their choice to other boys waiting their turn.

The haircuts, made possible by private donations, are available at X Quisite Cutz off Kingsgate Way on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

"Support beyond school hours is just as important as the instruction a student receives in the classroom," said Lakota Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction Marlon Styles. "Students learn in all different ways. To personalize our approach means we have to be open to new ways of connecting with them and getting them excited about learning. This program has a lot of potential to do that."

As simple as it sounds, the new program's design is multi-purposed and goes beyond the most obvious goal to promote literacy. The smiles, high fives and words of encouragement on the first night were evidence of that.

and to learn the joy of helping others,” explains Carstens.

Freedom Elementary’s student council chose a different tactic, using the collection as part of an exercise routine called “Get Fit While You Sit.” Every student who brings in at least two canned goods or other item gets to participate.

At Liberty Early Childhood School, they’ve implemented a “friendly competition” with the team making the most donations treated to a dance party during the school day. By including all classes from preschool to first grade, each student has the opportunity to learn about giving back to the community.

That’s a concept that continues even to the high schools. At Lakota West, the classes that bring the most items receive lunch and other prizes. And Principal Elgin Card has challenged all of the Lakota West feeder schools to join in the competition, with the class at each elementary school collecting the most items receiving a donut party. “We want them to pay it forward at a young age so that it is second nature when they are in high school,” he states.

The community can also get involved, with nonperishable food items and personal care products being collected at all Lakota schools now through Oct. 26. Or, items can be brought to the Oct. 28 East versus West football game, with the winner of the food drive announced during the halftime ceremonies.

[Click here to view a food drive flyer](#) that include a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.

*All year long, Lakota students and staff work tirelessly to support causes that make a difference in the lives of others right here in West Chester and Liberty townships. After all, the best way to show our appreciation for a community that*

“With adult role models as volunteers and an audience of kids their own age, our young readers have support all around them,” said Angie Brown, who leads Lakota’s community engagement efforts. “So much of it is about providing words of encouragement and reinforcing their confidence while they’re learning something new.”

Community engagement for student achievement is a district goal that aligned with the barber shop’s mission, too.

“The whole purpose of a barber shop is to bring people together and build community,” said Rod Hampton, owner of X Quisite Cutz. “Plus I realized that kids might spent half an hour or more getting their haircut. Why not put that time to good use and read while they’re sitting there?”

The long-term goal is to build up a small library of books – both for students to read there on site and take home with them. For more information about how to get involved, either as a volunteer or donor of books or haircut funds, contact [angie.brown@lakotaonline.com](mailto:angie.brown@lakotaonline.com).

*gives our schools so much is to give right back to it. Look for more "Lakota Gives Back" stories as the year continues.*

## Around Lakota

### *School Spotlights*

### District-Wide Author Visits Inspire Career Exploration



*Author Lester Laminack shares some of his insights, such as how a favorite pen can inspire a writer, with students at Wyandot Early Childhood School. Thanks to PTO/PTAs, students have the opportunity to learn directly from such guest speakers.*

Guest speakers often bring a new insight and richness to learning, especially when favorite authors share with students. Recently, two authors visited several Lakota schools to provide an insider's view of the writing and reading process.

Lester Laminack, author of many children's books including *Trevor's Wiggly Wobbly Tooth*, *Saturday and Teacakes* and *Three Hens and A Peacock*, visited Wyandot Early Childhood School, and Adena, Cherokee and VanGorden elementary schools. Thanks to the schools' PTA/PTOs that sponsored the visits, Mr. Laminack shared several inspirational stories and helped students gain a better understanding of the writing process.

In addition, he also shared from his children's books on bullying prevention and how to act with kindness to others. During the weeks prior to his visit, the students read and discussed his books in preparation for the interaction.

"Our students enjoyed hearing about the process necessary to take a story from concept through actual production," states Valerie Montgomery, principal at Cherokee Elementary. "Many weren't aware of the many stages a book goes through in order for them to have the finished product and they were interested to learn how an author must edit and refine the story."

Since he is also the author of several professional books for educators, the visits incorporated time for the staff to chat with Mr. Laminack regarding ways to foster a love of reading in young children.

Another author, Dan Poblocki, visited Hopewell Junior and shared his insight with the students. Poblocki, who pens mystery and horror novels for young people, described his

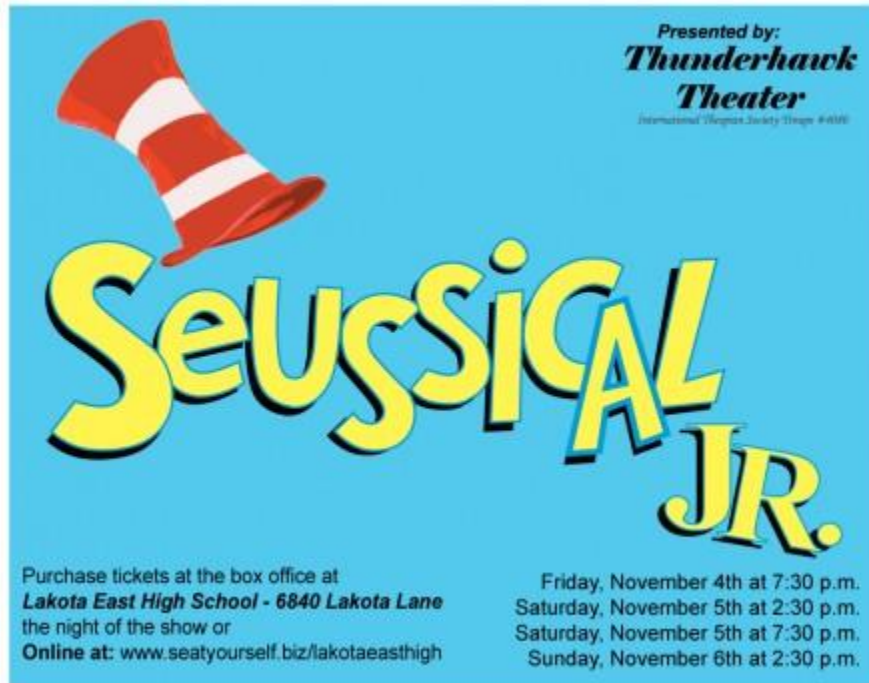


writing process from the spark of starting a story, to the craft of developing ideas and outlines, and finally, the importance of revising one's work.

“It was a tremendous opportunity for our students to hear from an author on what their writing process is and how they turn ideas into stories,” says Principal Jeff Rouff. “We may have created some future authors during the assembly.”

## Lakota East, West Theatre Productions Now Underway

*Seussical Jr. Tickets Now on Sale*



Come see our talented high school students on stage for one of the many theatre productions planned for this school year.

First up is Lakota East's *Seussical, Jr.*, where The Cat in the Hat, Horton the elephant, and other beloved Dr. Seuss characters come together in one lively musical. (This family-friendly show runs a little over an hour, so it is a perfect introduction to the theater for younger community members.)

"*Seussical, Jr.* is a show that our students lead from beginning to end," said East's theatre director Kristen Statt. Students run the entire production, from the planning stages through the final production. "The student leadership team this year is comprised of upperclassmen, many who want to pursue careers in theater, education, visual art, or musical performance. This show gives them a chance to see how viable a career in this field would be for them."

Tickets are on sale now for \$10 at [SeatYourself.biz/LakotaEastHigh](http://SeatYourself.biz/LakotaEastHigh). Tickets will also be available at the door, starting 30 minutes before each performance.

Show times are:

Friday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, November 5 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, November 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Auditions will soon be underway at Lakota West for “*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.” The musical production will be under the direction of West’s new Theatre Director, Laura Dobrozi who started the theater program at Plains Jr. in 2007. She’s looking forward to working with West students. “My favorite part of theatre is becoming a tight-knit group through the experiences that we go through together,” said Dobrozi. “I am excited to meet my new theatre family, and share my love of music and drama with our students at West!”

## Wyandot First-Graders Become the Teachers

### *Students Demonstrate Technology Concepts*



*Above: Wyandot's Technology Night started off with an interactive survey using a popular digital app. Below: First grade students taught their families how to use the apps that are featured in their technology special class.*

“Families have an idea of what takes place in an art class, gym class or a music class. But our technology class is a new concept – and who better to teach this new concept than the first-graders themselves?”

Wyandot Early Childhood Principal Mary Brophy said that was the impetus for the Technology Night held at the school this week.

“We have had technology nights in this past, but this year we shifted to including the children instead of only providing information to the parents. The children were able to bring the work to life, and families gained a greater understanding of what their children are telling them about school.”

And judging from the smiles, laughter and “aha” moments taking place throughout the room that night, it worked.

Lakota’s Technology Special serves students in grades 1-6 throughout the Lakota district. Once a week for 18 weeks, students focus solely on technology, just as they do with other ‘special’ classes like art, music and physical education.

The evening was led by Abigail Detcher, who teaches first grade technology in all of Lakota’s early childhood schools.



“Many of the students have tried to explain to their families the digital tools we use, but actually seeing how the tools work makes all the difference,” said Detcher. “One of the most popular are digital assessment tools we use to build and customize surveys and quizzes.” Parents were able to experience how the game design encourages increased instructional engagement and social interaction with the teacher and their peers.

From there, the families were invited to try other digital learning tools at various stations around the room. Children and adults worked together to try new things and explore technology as if they were working in a first grade technology classroom.

“The students were excellent teachers for their families,” said Detcher. “Having the parents and children interacting with the technology together was a great way to showcase early childhood technology learning.”

[View All District News](#)

## New Business

*Announcements & Opportunities*

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

It’s an opportunity to learn the inside scoop from eight professionals when they share their insights during the upcoming career panel night.

Presented by Lakota’s Gifted Services department, the panel discussion will be held Thursday, November 10 at 7 p.m. in the theater at Lakota East. Panelists are: Marais Jacon-Duffy, web editor for WCPO; Dr. Gary Kleman, senior research scientist for Givaudan; Joan Bauman, dietician for the University of Dayton; Dr. Betsy Mueller, pediatric dentist with Dr. Betsy Mueller and Associates; Chris Szaz, vice-president of the ERP division for Centric Consulting; Lieutenant David Tivin, crime scene processing for West Chester Police Department; Judge Donald Oda, II, judge for Warren County; and Brock Pleiman, aerospace engineer for Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

## On The Radar

*Quick Links & Reminders*

### **Meet with the Superintendent, Treasurer**

*First Coffee Conversation Oct. 26*

Beginning this month, and continuing throughout the year, Lakota’s Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann and Treasurer Jenni Logan will begin informal coffee chats out in the community.

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

For questions, please contact the Gifted Services Department at (513) 644-1186 or by [email](#).

## Lakota's Got Talent Slated 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. This year the event will be held Tuesday, November 15, at the Lakota West Freshman Campus.

According to **Justin Kelley**, a senior at Lakota West and one of the event organizers, several changes have been implemented in order to make this year's show bigger and better than ever.

The annual talent show has been widened to include both staff and students. Thus, if a school has a talented singer, dancer, musician, comedian, or actor, they can act as a representative for the entire school. And individual and group performances are welcome.

"This is always a fun event and we hope students and the community come out to support it – and their friends who are competing," Kelley adds.

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.

The first event is on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 10-11 a.m. at Coffee Beans and Brew, 7051 Yankee Road. Both will be available for drop-in conversation with parents and residents.

Come ask your questions and share your thoughts with Lakota!

---

## Community Conversations Set for Oct. 26, Nov. 2

October has been a busy month for the Lakota Board of Education's community listening program and there are still several more conversations taking place over the next few weeks.

"[Community Conversations](#)" continues into 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.

Upcoming events include:

**Wednesday, Oct. 26**

Community Conversation

Host: Boys & Girls Club of West  
Chester/Liberty



Location: Boys & Girls Club  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 27**

Community Conversation

Audience: Lakota staff

Location: Lakota's Central Office  
(5572 Princeton Rd. Liberty Twp.)

6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 2**

Community Conversation

Host: Reach Out Lakota

Location: West Chester Presbyterian  
Church

6:30 - 8 p.m.

---

## **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.

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.

## Photo of the Week



### Pages 'N Paws Events Improve Literacy Skills

For the fifth year in a row, Union Elementary's book fair featured a Pages 'N Paws event where students sign up to read to service dogs. The activity is a fun and effective way to improve reading skills.

And both the students and the pups enjoy it, as shown here by Union second-grader **Megan Edwards** and her canine friend.

Many Lakota schools host Pages 'N Paws events in conjunction with their book fairs; Cherokee Elementary will hold one for its students on Tuesday.

Pages 'N Paws was introduced in 2009 with the mission of improving the literacy skills of children by reading to registered therapy dogs.

## Upcoming Events

### Event Spotlights

- [Monday, October 17-October 28](#)  
**'Reach In for Reach Out Lakota' Food Drive**
- [Monday, October 24](#)  
**Lakota Board of Education Meeting (at Central Office)**  
7 p.m.
- [Wednesday, October 26](#)  
**Community Conversation Hosted by the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty (at Boys & Girls Club)**  
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- [Wednesday, October 26](#)  
**Coffee Conversations with the Superintendent, Treasurer (at Coffee Beans and Brew)**  
10 - 11 a.m.
- [Thursday, Oct. 27](#)  
Community Conversation  
Audience: Lakota staff  
At the district's Central Office,  
5572 Princeton Rd. Liberty Twp.  
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- [Wednesday, November 2](#)  
**LEADS Parent Connect Session at the Lakota East Freshman**

## Lakota In The News

### Community Coverage

**Hamilton Journal-News**  
[Food drive enhances Lakota rivalry for community benefit](#)

## 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:

- [Career Panel for Grades 7-12 \(Nov. 10\)](#)

### Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- ["Annie" at Children's Theatre of Mason \(Nov. 4-6\)](#)
- [Trunk or Treat at LifeChurch \(Oct. 30\)](#)
- [Lakota West Kids Wrestling Club \(Grades 1-6\)](#)
- [Lakota Lacrosse Registration Ends Oct. 31 \(Gr K-8\)](#)
- [Grace Chapel Archery Programs Start Oct. 24](#)
- [Northern Cincinnati Youth Ballet \(Ages 4 & up\)](#)

## 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.  
Nov. 3 - 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Nov. 4 - 2:30 p.m.

[See Full Calendar](#)

To view all of the current flyers, please [click here to go to Lakota's E-Flyers page.](#)

[All Current E-Flyers](#)

## Lakota Central Office

5572 Princeton Road

Liberty Township, OH 45011-9726

Phone: (513) 874-5505

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

