



# This Week At Lakota

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

October 14, 2016

## **Leading the Way**

**Lakota Students Combat Hunger Through Art, Volunteering**

*2nd Annual Empty Bowls Event Benefits Local Food Programs*



*Fifth-grade students at VanGorden Elementary lend their artistic talents to a good cause – painting their handmade ceramic bowls which will be part of the upcoming “Empty Bowls” community luncheon. The Nov. 5 event, which is hosted by C3, benefits Reach Out Lakota and the Faith Alliance Summer Lunch program.*

Hunger remains a local issue, impacting many families and children within our community. That’s why Lakota Local Schools opts to be involved in a special initiative that benefits two food programs that serve our local West Chester and Liberty families.

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.

Last year, Lakota students participated in many aspects of the program – from creating artwork such as painting bowls and decorating placemats to volunteering at the community luncheon. About \$5,000 was raised at the event, which was attended by families, community members and local leaders who enjoyed a lunch of soup, breads and desserts provided by local chefs and restaurants.

This year, more than 1,500 Lakota students are participating in some fashion.

And the hand-crafted bowls play a central role, serving as a symbolic reminder of the hunger in our community. Each attendee gets to choose his or her bowl for the lunch, then takes the ceramic bowl home following the event.

“It’s great to see the students’ understanding grow as they participate in this project,” states Lance Green, principal at Freedom Elementary. “We make it more than a simple art project, so that the students comprehend the reasons why their bowls can make a difference to others. They’re so proud that their artwork actually plays a role in helping feed the hungry.”

Even younger students get involved, with students at the Early Childhood Schools crafting placemats and decorating bags that will be used at the luncheon. And many junior high and high school students volunteer at the event, helping with set-up and clean-up and clearing tables. The high school jazz bands also typically perform, providing background music at the event.

“It’s great that we’re able to help address a community-wide need through support of two worthy community organizations. Our students continue to participate in such important roles, which emphasizes service to others,” said C3 President and Lakota Board President Lynda O’Connor.

Those interested can purchase a handcrafted bowl or buy a ticket to the main event at Liberty Center over the next two weeks: October 22 from 4-7 p.m. at The Living Room or October 29 from noon – 3 p.m. at Pet Parade.

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

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

*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 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*

**Marching Bands Continue Tradition of Success**





*Over 430 students participate in Lakota's marching band programs. Lakota East(top photo) and Lakota West (lower photo) are both in their 20th season, and are continuing their tradition of success as they take home top awards in competitions this fall.*

Awards and praise keep pouring in for the Lakota East and Lakota West marching bands, both in their 20<sup>th</sup> seasons.

East's band is 210 members strong, up 30 from last year. Their halftime and competition show entitled "The World Outside My Window" (based on Peter Pan's Wendy and her journey of adventure and love) won Grand Champion honors in their first competition of the year. At the Hilliard Bradley Invitational in September, the band qualified for state and earned a superior rating. The band's goal for the recent Bands of America Regional in Dayton was to make the finals and, for the second year in a row, they did.

Saturday the band heads to OSU for the Buckeye Invitational at 'The Horseshoe', and the following week they travel to St. Louis to perform against 65 bands from around the country in the Bands of America Super Regional at 'The Dome'. "It's a year of great venues", said East Band Director Rob Tanis.

What are the goals for these upcoming competitions? "We've already achieved many of our goals, but our real goal is just to do better than we did the last time," said Tanis. "If the kids are having fun, playing their best and working hard, they are going to like what happens."

Lakota West Band Director Andrew Carr agrees. "Our biggest goal this year was to raise the level of performance for our group, particularly in the area of visual performance. The students have worked very hard through some challenging weather conditions to perform at the highest level I have seen here at Lakota West."

The theme of their halftime/competition show is "Bloom" and features many flower-related effects including 13 – 8-foot umbrellas painted to look like flowers. The guard also has uniforms that open up into sunflowers halfway through the show.

The 222-member West marching band is exceeding expectations in every way. In their very first weekend, they performed at two contests and were named champion of every possible caption and award. On October 1, West attended the Bands of America Regional Championship in Toledo for the first time in 10 years, and was honored to perform in the evening finals performance. There are several competitions remaining, including the OMEA state contest at Hilliard Bradley at the end of October.

Both Tanis and Carr are grateful for the support they receive from parents and administrators. Examples include the efforts of East parents to build nine 12-foot windows that actually open and move around the field to help tell the story of Wendy from Peter Pan. And West volunteers who accompanied the band for their trip to Toledo went almost 24 hours without sleep, logging over 20,000 steps on their pedometers while loading and unloading the truck four times.

Good luck to our marching bands as they finish out their marching band season!

## 'Stockings for Soldiers' Service Projects Wrap Up at Many Lakota Schools



*Members of the Heritage Elementary Student Council are shown here with some of the 30 stockings the school filled for the Stockings for Soldiers project. Cherokee Elementary also participated in the program, filling 50 stockings to send to troops around the world for the holidays.*

It's not too early to be thinking about the holidays!

Several Lakota schools recently wrapped up their Stockings for Soldiers projects where they collected items to send to soldiers who won't be home to spend the holidays with their families.

Heritage Elementary has participated in Stockings for Soldiers for the past several years. This year they stuffed 30 stockings full of personal hygiene items like toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, soap, sunscreen and lip balm. They also provided snacks, hot chocolate, playing cards, books and candy.

Students really like the program because it is a concrete way they can give back to others. **Kylie Hanauer**, sixth-grade Student Council officer shared, "I think that Stockings for Soldiers is special because even though you don't know the exact person you are helping, you know that you are making a difference."

Cherokee Elementary also adopted the Stockings for Soldiers program for its September service project -- and they assembled 50 stockings to be sent to troops for the holidays.

Liberty Junior High students and families really stepped up for their Stockings for Soldiers campaign. They collected over 6,000 items



*Liberty Junior students pose with some of the 175 stockings they stuffed with more than 6,000 items - all to support troops during the holidays. Sandy Helm of Mueller's Funeral Home (middle of photo, in black) provided the stockings and the shipping expense.*

that enabled them to stuff 175 stockings to send to soldiers around the world.

Mueller Funeral Home sponsors the program, provides the list of needed items and arranges for shipping the stockings.

The schools have already started work on their next projects. Heritage will focus on the Reach Out Lakota food drive and Julianna's Joy in upcoming months. In October Cherokee will be participating in Pennies for Patients to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Last year, students and families raised \$1,200 to fight against blood cancer.

## **VanGorden's Walk-a-Thon Supports Learning Opportunities, Spirit of Fun**



The weather was perfect, the students were excited and even the goats behaved.

Yes, several goats attended VanGorden Elementary's 3rd annual Walk-a-Thon, which was held earlier today. The "special guest" had a special purpose - to help the school celebrate a successful event and to help settle a wager between Principal Gail Allshouse and the students.

"It was all in good fun - and for a good cause," explained Allshouse, who willingly puckered up to kiss the goat after the school raised more than \$13,300 from the event. Sponsored by the PTA, proceeds from the Walk-a-Thon are used to support the school's STEAM lab, outdoor classroom and other learning opportunities.

"Thanks to co-chairs Kelly Hoffman and Vanessa Weiss, we had a tremendous result and I'm proud of the effort the PTA and our students put forth to benefit the school. I'm glad to keep my part of the deal in honor of how much work and dedication they've shown."

*Students at VanGorden Elementary watch as Principal Gail Allshouse kisses a goat, all part of the school's annual Walk-a-Thon that raises money to support various programs. The fun stunt was done in recognition of the great results - more than \$13,300 raised during the event.*

## **Recognizing Student Leaders for Work on Projects to Fight Breast Cancer**

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Student leaders of two flagship community service projects at Lakota high schools - Volley for a Cure at Lakota West and Hawks for the Cure at Lakota East - were recently honored at a Board of Education meeting.

It's estimated that the schools have more than \$150,000 combined in support of the Susan G. Komen Fund, working to eradicate breast cancer. Tallies are still coming in from Hawks for the Cure events, while the Volley for a Cure netted \$13,172.96 this year - their most amount ever!

From left, students **Olivia Vicena, Anika Waits, Payton Souders, Marissa Sturkey, Haley Bergheger, Megan Kaufman, Maya Krause, Courtney Whited and Christine Laritz** are flanked by Board members Ben Dibble, Todd Parnell, Ray Murray, Julie Shaffer, Lakota Treasurer Jenni Logan, Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann and Board president Lynda O'Connor.

[View All District News](#)

## New Business

*Announcements & Opportunities*

### Connect with Lakota's Superintendent, Treasurer

Interested in meeting Lakota's administrators? Have a question or curious about their plans for the district?

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. For

## On The Radar

*Quick Links & Reminders*

### No School for Students Monday, Oct. 17

There will be no school for students next Monday, Oct. 17 due to a professional

an hour, both will be available for drop-in conversation with parents and residents at local coffee houses as part of a new initiative called Coffee Connections.

Mark the following dates on your calendars, enjoy a coffee and make connections as you learn about your school district:

- Wednesday, Oct. 26, 10-11 a.m. - Coffee Beans and Brew, 7051 Yankee Road, Liberty Township
- Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2- 3 p.m. – Cappuccino Depot, 9157 Cincinnati-Columbus Road, old West Chester
- None in December due to the holidays
- Wednesday, Jan. 25 10-11 a.m. - Coffee Beans and Brew, 7051 Yankee Road, Liberty Township
- Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2-3 p.m. - Cappuccino Depot, 9157 Cincinnati-Columbus Road, old West Chester

## Parent Digital Resources Support Expands

A new page on Lakota’s website, accessible at [lakotaonline.com/parents](https://www.lakotaonline.com/parents), catalogues the many available online parent resources, their purpose and if applicable, any relevant mobile apps.– and we’ve just added even more to help parents stay informed and to learn how to utilize such resources.

New videos have been posted to assist our parents with Canvas, Lakota's new Learning Management System. Canvas provides our students with a unified platform for each participating course, including digital content, assignments, calendar, student collaboration capabilities, alerts and more. Parents can access Canvas as an observer at any time. All grades from assignments in Canvas will be posted in HAC.

To help parents make the most of this great resource, a Canvas Basics video and Canvas Parent Access help the viewer understand the various components and how to use them. The third video, Canvas Settings leads the viewer through initial set-up, managing alerts and login instructions. A FAQ on Canvas has also been added to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions we received from our parents.

Click here to view these and other digital resources: <https://www.lakotaonline.com/parents>

development day. Classes will resume as usual Tuesday, Oct. 18.

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## District-Wide Food Drive Kicks Off on Monday

Starting Oct. 17, you can show your Westside or Eastside pride by taking part in the ninth annual district-wide food drive benefitting Reach Out Lakota.

Each year the ‘Reach In for Reach Out Lakota’ food drive, hosted by the Lakota Board of Education, plays off the spirit of the East vs. West football game, pitting Lakota’s East side schools against the West side schools.

Nonperishable food items and personal care products will be collected at all Lakota schools from Oct. 17 through Oct. 26.

All items collected will then be taken to Lakota West, site of this year’s East vs. West football game. Community members can also bring items to place in the Eastside or Westside storage containers before the start of the Oct. 28 football game.

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

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## Expert Shares Tips for Worry-Free Discipline

*Parent Connect Session Set for Nov. 2*

Living with gifted children can sometimes be filled with intensity. Perfectionism, anxiety, overexcitabilities and more create unique stressors for your home. 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.

November 2, 2016

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Lakota East Freshman Auditorium  
7630 Bethany Road

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

Scott has over 16 years of experience working with a diverse array of children on a daily basis as a teacher, principal, superintendent, discipline specialist, behavioral consultant, and father. He brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding to his work. Scott teaches educators and parents skills and procedures that enable them to be calm and assertive with children. Scott's syndicated column, "Ask the Kid Whisperer," is published in newspapers such as *The Dayton Daily News*, *The Springfield News-Sun*, and *The Hamilton Journal-News*.

Scott's engaging, humorous teaching style and straightforward, systematic approach pave the way for worry-free discipline. This, in turn, builds children's confidence and critical thinking skills.

Visit him on the web at [www.askthekidwhisperer.com](http://www.askthekidwhisperer.com) or [www.facebook.com/askthekidwhisperer](https://www.facebook.com/askthekidwhisperer).

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.

## Mark Your Calendar: Lakota Fills October with Community Conversations

October is a busy month for the Lakota Board of Education's community listening program.

"[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.

[Click here to watch a video](#) with reactions from Lakota's board members about the value of this program to their daily decision-making.

Visit the [Community Conversations webpage](#) for a complete schedule of upcoming meetings and other resources.

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## Student Fee Holiday

Just a reminder that the deadline for Lakota's student fee holiday is quickly approaching. Take advantage of this offer, which eliminates the \$2.00 convenience fee typically required of any online payments for student fees or lunch accounts. As both an incentive to remit payment early and promote the convenience of online

payment, the student fee holiday will extend through Oct. 31. [Click here](#) for more information about student fees.

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## **Book Drive Continues Through October**

Want to help brighten the holiday season for patients at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Liberty Campus?

Now through the end of October, Lakota early childhood, elementary and junior high schools will be collecting new books, stickers (any type), journals, music CDs, movie DVDs (no VHS tapes), art supplies and small unopened dollar store toys. 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](#).

## **Photo of the Week**



## Everyone Wins in the 'Run for Youth'

It was a flurry of activity as local students and their supporters tested themselves during the Oct. 8 Run for Youth, sponsored by the Lakota Optimist Club.

The event, which raises money to fund various youth activities in the community, also has an educational element, according to Jim Welland, one of the Optimist organizers. "I have always thought of this event as a win for everyone involved. Students learn that running a distance race is not only doable but can be fun when it helps them win glory for themselves and for their schools. It also prepares them physically and mentally for the other challenges in life, all while supporting youth programs in our community. The Optimist Club has fun administering the event and we're looking forward to next year."

To view more photos from the event, visit the [Lakota Optimists Facebook page](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Event Spotlights

- [Monday, October 17](#)  
**No School for Students  
(Professional Development  
Day)**
- [Monday, October 17](#)  
**Community Conversation  
Hosted by Lakota West Boosters**

## Lakota In The News

### Community Coverage

#### Hamilton Journal-News

[What Lakota parents, residents say they want in next superintendent](#)

## 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

**(at Lakota West High School)**

7 - 8:30 p.m.

- [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.
- [Monday, October 26](#)  
**Community Conversation**  
**Hosted by the Boys & Girls**  
**Club of West Chester/Liberty (at**  
**Boys & Girls Club)**  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

[See Full  
Calendar](#)

of all of the new district and community-sponsored flyers for this week.

**District-Sponsored:**

- [LEADS Parent Connect Session - Nov. 2](#)

**Community-Sponsored Flyers:**

- [Faith Alliance Dodge Ball Tournament - Jan. 14](#)
- [Empty Bowls Flyer - Nov. 5](#)

**Lakota Central Office**

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Phone: (513) 874-5505

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