

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

September 30, 2016

## Leading the Way

***WATCH: New "Champions for Change" Promotes Inclusiveness, Academic Success for All Students***



*Click on the photo above to view Lakota's video explaining the new "Champions for Change" cultural proficiency training program.*



*The "Champions for Change" program is being led by teacher Aisha Moore, who is on special assignment this year, but is pictured above with her Cherokee second-graders last year.*

When your schools begin to mirror the diverse world surrounding them and the workforce their students will one day enter, that's something to celebrate. That's exactly the intent of a new cultural proficiency training program for Lakota staff called "Champions for

The celebration of difference and inclusiveness has been a staple in Lakota schools. It's practiced through a range of multicultural celebrations, poverty simulations, character education, service

Change.” At its core is building a stronger culture of inclusiveness that supports high achievement for students of all different backgrounds.

“Our staff is continuously challenged with meeting the needs of all types of learners. It’s something we embrace and take a lot of pride in,” said Lakota Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann. “At the same time, it requires an approach built on empathy and understanding. Our goal is always to provide our staff with the kind of training that will help them better reach their students.”

The program acknowledges a demographic trend at Lakota defined by steady changes in the cultural, racial, socioeconomic and even cognitive make-up of the district’s students and families.

“Before you can ever break through to a child academically, you have to gain their trust. That means letting them know you care about them and are willing and able to help them jump any hurdles standing between them and a successful future,” said Aisha Moore, a teacher on special assignment who is leading the diversity charge.

learning and empathy-based programs like the ID Project and “Be the Difference.”

The “Champions for Change” program takes that approach to a new level, offering staff the skills and strategies they can use in the classroom to better understand potential barriers and partner with families for the best possible outcome for all students.

A “champion” from every Lakota school and administrative building will meet regularly for practical training provided through reading, open dialogue and even expert visitors on topics like cross-cultural communication, understanding poverty and barriers to the achievement gap. These leaders are charged with sharing their learnings and strategies with the rest of their colleagues, in a format that can be applied to their work.

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about the new program and hear reactions from Lakota staff.

## Around Lakota

### **Gifted Services Offers Range of Resources to Parents, Students**

*Three-part Series Covers Resources and Opportunities Available to Gifted Learners*



*In one example of Gifted Services programs, the University of Cincinnati's Economics center is currently working with Lakota's junior high advisory groups on a "traveling t-shirt" project. Students participate in the employment application process, concluding with mock interviews with staff members from UC. Topics included answering interview questions, the importance of references and how to bring out one's strengths in an interview.*

Through a large menu of opportunities, gifted students at Lakota can participate in services and course work designed to meet their unique learning needs. The district offers a wide continuum of services, including an advanced curriculum, use of differentiated instructional strategies, placement in gifted programs and honors and advanced placement classes.

Because the world of gifted is so vast it can be difficult for parents to stay current on the multiple opportunities, resources and supports available – and that's why Lakota's Gifted Services is offering ongoing sessions to help educate and engage gifted students and their parents.

"We've created a three-part series to help our gifted students and their parents understand what curricular pathways and resources are available to them," explains Jenifer Lodovico, director of Gifted Services.

"The recent Gifted 101 sessions provided an overview of identification, service and ways to support the gifted child. We're pleased that more than 70 parents attended our elementary session. It was an excellent introduction to the identification process, the services available to students and we're excited to share even more information at the upcoming Hot Topics and Hot Coffee event."

This session, which is the second in the three-part series, is designed as an informal time to discuss the social and emotional aspects that go along with being gifted.

"We want parents to be aware of issues such as executive functioning skills, the unique challenges faced by gifted students and why they matter for the gifted learner," Lodovico states.

The Hot Coffee and Hot Topics session will be held Friday, October 14 at Lakota's Central Office, 5572 Princeton Road. Parents of gifted learners in grades K-6 will gather from 9-10 a.m., then parents of students in grades 7-12 will convene from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

The third session, which will be held March 30, will focus on secondary career planning. Students will learn from career and high school panelists, encouraging them to look to the future and determine pathways for success in high school and then college.

For questions, please contact the Gifted Services department at 513 644-1186 or email [giftedservices@lakotaonline.com](mailto:giftedservices@lakotaonline.com); or visit [www.lakotaonline.com/gifted](http://www.lakotaonline.com/gifted).

## Students Ready for 24th Annual 'Run for Youth' Race Oct. 8

*Lakota's Junior High Cross Country Teams Host Prep Races*



The two preparatory races are over – with more than 100 Lakota students in grades K-6 participating in each of the one mile races held at Plains Junior on Sept. 19 and at Hopewell Junior this past Monday, Sept. 26. Hosted by the Lakota junior high cross country teams, the series helps students prepare for the upcoming 'Run for Youth' race sponsored by the Lakota Optimist Club.

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year for the event, which is designed for Lakota students in grades K-6, as well as parents and others who would like to participate. The 1 ½ mile race begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 at Plains Junior High School; all runners are encouraged to arrive early and anyone wishing to register day of the event should arrive no later than 8:15 a.m.

Awards will be given to the first three boy and girl finishers of each grade, with ribbons given to all finishers. Note that the race will occur rain or shine.

This year the Optimist Club has invited FC Cincinnati soccer players who have agreed to attend the Run for Youth race to sign autographs, take pictures and mingle among the runners and their families.

[Click here](#) for the Optimist's Run flyer and registration form.

[View All District News](#)

### New Business

*Announcements & Opportunities*

### On The Radar

*Quick Links & Reminders*



## Lakota Gives Back: "Zumba for the Cure" Oct. 7

The sixth annual "Zumba for the Cure" is a great way to have fun, get some physical exercise and support a great cause! All are invited to the Lakota East High School gymnasium from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, to get their groove on to support breast cancer research and awareness.

The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, with all proceeds benefiting Lakota East's annual "Hawks for the Cure" initiative. Tickets can be purchased the evening of the event.

Come in workout attire ready to hear upbeat, lively music and dance to Latin rhythms! No prior experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun. Raffle baskets filled with donations from local merchants will be also available to win. For more information, please contact Annie Cantrell at [annie.cantrell@lakotaonline.com](mailto:annie.cantrell@lakotaonline.com).

*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.*

## Help Plan Pi Day 2017

Save the date of March 17 for Pi Day 2017!

Do you feel passionate about bringing hands-on math and science activities to Lakota students? Lakota LEADS is kicking off its planning for Pi Day 2017 and would love to have you share your enthusiasm and energy with the team!

Last year's Pi Day brought over 40 hands-on math and science activities to almost 1,500 participants, and with your help, this year's event can be even better. Join LEADS on Thursday Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Coffee Beans & Brew (7041 Yankee Rd, Liberty

## Extracurricular Fees Reduced; Apply for Lower Family Cap

In an effort to expand student access to opportunities beyond the classroom, the Lakota Board of Education approved at a special board meeting the lowering of athletic, marching band and winter/color guard fees for junior high and high school students. The extracurricular fees for students in grades 7-12 will be exactly half the current amount, effective for students participating in the winter and spring sessions. Fees paid for the 2016 fall season will be applied to the family cap for the 2016-2017 school year.

To potentially expand the footprint of this reduction and promote increased participation in all activities for more students, the board will soon be reviewing and considering potential changes to the fee structure for other student opportunities, too.

The annual family cap has also been reduced by half, helping offset the cost difference for those students who participated in fall activities under the current rate. This allows these students to participate in more activities at no additional cost. Click here to view the [Family Cap FAQ](#) or the [Family Cap application](#). [Click](#)

Township). Please contact Robyn Knappenberger at [Robyn.Knappenberger@gmail.com](mailto:Robyn.Knappenberger@gmail.com) if you would like to help but aren't able to attend on the 13<sup>th</sup> or if you have any questions.

For more information about LEADS, visit its website at [www.lakotaleads.org](http://www.lakotaleads.org).

## Community Conversation on Superintendent Search Slated for Oct. 14

The Lakota Board of Education will hold a “Community Conversation” to get input on the qualities, traits, characteristics, experience, etc. that the Lakota community would like to see in a new superintendent. This is to help prepare for a search process that will begin this school year, to select a new superintendent and ensure that individual will be in place for the next school year.

The “Community Conversation” will be held Friday, October 14 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. The event will be hosted by the West Chester – Liberty Chamber Alliance at their location at 8922 Beckett Road, West Chester.

The discussion is free and open to the public and lunch will be provided. However, space is limited, so please reserve your spot now by contacting Debbie Wallace by phone (513-644-1166) or by email ([debbie.wallace@lakotaonline.com](mailto:debbie.wallace@lakotaonline.com)).

## Class of 2017 Graduation Dates Set

Dates and times to celebrate Lakota's Class of 2017 have been set. Lakota East will hold its commencement exercises at Xavier's Cintas Center on Thursday, May 18 at 7 p.m. The graduation ceremony for Lakota West will take place on Friday, May 19 at 8 p.m., also at the Cintas Center. [Click here to view Lakota's academic calendar](#) that shows these events, as well as other important dates for this school year.

[here](#) for more information about the revised fees.

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## West's Arts & Crafts Show this Weekend

With over 200 indoor booths, the Lakota West Arts & Crafts Show, hosted by the PTSO, has been going strong for almost 40 years and is known as one of the premier arts & crafts shows in the area. Here are the dates and times for this year's show:

**Saturday, October 1**  
**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Sunday, October 2**  
**11 a.m. - 4 .p.m**

Admission is \$2 and parking is free. All proceeds benefit student programs and scholarships. Make plans to attend and get an early start on your holiday shopping!

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## East's Hawks for the Cure Continues

Over the last seven years, the Lakota East Athletic Department has hosted a series of events to support Susan G. Komen of

## JTHF Book Drive Kicks Off Oct. 3

Every October, the Lakota community comes together to brighten the holiday season for patients at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in memory of one of its former students. After 13-year-old Jeff Hayden lost his battle with brain cancer in September 2004, his twin brother and a fellow classmate organized a book drive in Jeff's honor.

Twelve years later, the annual Jeffrey Thomas Hayden Foundation (JTHF) book drive continues due to the generosity of Lakota families and students -- over \$60,000 in books, toys, art supplies and other items have been collected.

During the month of October, many Lakota 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. The donations will be given to the Liberty Campus of Children's Hospital to stock their book carts and Child Life department.

Collection bins are located in all Lakota early childhood, elementary and junior high schools. 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](#).

Greater Cincinnati and the fight against breast cancer. Upcoming events include:

### **Girls Soccer: Oct. 4**

Gate opens at 4:30 p.m.; games start at 5:30 p.m.

### **Football: Oct. 14**

Gate opens at 5:30 p.m.; game starts at 7 p.m.

"Hawks for the Cure" t-shirts are also available in the Lakota East Athletic Department for \$10. Every penny that is collected through "Hawks for the Cure" is donated to the fight against breast cancer.

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## Student Fee Holiday

Lakota has introduced a three-month student fee holiday, 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.

## Photo of the Week

## It's Homecoming Season!

Last weekend Lakota West celebrated Homecoming and this weekend Lakota East will hold its Homecoming pep rally, football game and dance.

Pictured here is Lakota West's 2016 Homecoming court. Girls from left to right: **Haley Bergheger, Courtney Whited, Nina Emlendi, Jada Mason, Jade Burt, Brook Bramlage, Tori Kelley and Anna Huston.** Boys from left to right: **Marcus Aull, Justin Kelley, Michael Medley, Jaden Montgomery, Joseph Gelter, Dexter Tolbert and Thomas Mueller** (*Juan Jarrett not pictured*).

**Courtney Whited** and **Justin Kelley** were named Homecoming Queen and King at last Friday's football game.



### Upcoming Events

#### Event Spotlights

- [Monday, October 10](#)  
**Lakota Board of Education Meeting (Central Office)**  
7 p.m.
- [Friday, October 14](#)  
**End of First Quarter**

### Lakota In The News

#### Community Coverage

#### Hamilton Journal-News

[West Chester tax adjustments cost Lakota \\$3.6 million](#)

[High schools weigh in on national anthem protest](#)

### 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



- [Friday, October 14](#)  
**Community Conversation Hosted by West Chester-Liberty Chamber Alliance - Topic: New Superintendent**  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- [Monday, October 17](#)  
**No School for Students (Professional Development Day)**
- [Monday, October 17](#)  
**Community Conversation Hosted by Lakota West Boosters (at Lakota West High School)**  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

[See Full Calendar](#)

[Sports, other fees dropping for Lakota students](#)

#### Today's Pulse

[Thirteen Lakota students named National Merit semifinalists](#)

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:

- [Food with Friends "East and Learn" \(Oct. 5\)](#)
- [Zumba for the Cure at Lakota East High School \(Oct. 7\)](#)

#### Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [Harvest Fun 5K at Butler Co. Fairgrounds \(Oct. 15\)](#)
- [Liberty Center 5K Benefits East Athletics \(Oct. 9\)](#)
- [Gold Medal Archery Fall Session \(Ages 6 & up\)](#)

[All Current E-Flyers](#)

#### Lakota Central Office

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