

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

September 16, 2016

Leading the Way

Featured Presentation



There was plenty of pink in the stands for Lakota West's recent Volley for the Cure, an annual fundraising event to support the Susan G. Koman Fund. This

One example of Lakota's focus on the "end game" is whether or not our students are reading on grade level by the third grade. The "Third Grade Reading Guarantee" says 99.4% of third-graders are, yet the state report card ignores this measurement and focuses only on the progression of those students who are "off track" in their reading, from kindergarten up through third grade.

was the tenth annual event at West, with more than \$90,000 raised in the first nine years.

2015-16 State Report Card Requires Reading Beyond the Letter Grades

The Ohio Department of Education may be back on track in its September release of state report card results for Ohio schools and districts. But the 2015-2016 school year results for Lakota Local Schools, released Thursday, Sept. 15, should be read cautiously and with some contextual understanding of the steep challenges *all* Ohio schools are facing under the new grading scale.

Those challenges include a continuously changing, and rising, bar against which schools are graded for their performance in just six different areas. In some areas, that introduces disagreement between assessment results that show achievement and corresponding letter grades that do not. Pair that with three different test combinations over the last three years and any sort of year-over-year comparison is immeasurable.

"The complexity of the state report card means you can't just read it like you might read your child's report card," said Lakota Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann. "The letter grades for each area only tell part of the story for how we're ultimately preparing students for their future."

"At Lakota, we focus on the end game," Vogelmann continued. "That means how well we're preparing our students for the rigors beyond high school. For example, are they reading on grade level by the third grade? Are we graduating students on time and do their test scores *and* experiences suggest they are college- or career-ready? The report card is one valuable measurement tool, but doesn't draw a complete picture of both what we're doing right and where we might need to improve."

Lakota Gives Back: Another Successful Year of Volley for the Cure

It was more than a simple night of fundraising at the Sept. 13 Volley for the Cure event held at Lakota West High School. According to Lakota Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann, there was a very authentic feeling of community present that night.

"I was impressed by the compassion and caring evident by all of the players, on every team present," Vogelmann said. "When the players escorted those battling breast cancer onto the floor for the National Anthem, it truly showed the best side of sportsmanship and the human spirit. I'm proud of our high schools for their ongoing participation and leadership in such efforts that make a difference in our community and in the lives of so many people."

The event marks the tenth annual Volley for the Cure at West, with the volleyball program raising just over \$90,000 in previous years - all donated to the Susan G. Komen Fund that supports research to eradicate breast cancer.

"We're excited to see what the total will be for this year," said Elgin Card, Lakota West principal. "The goal was to top \$10,000, putting the cumulative total over \$100,000. We're eager to hear the results and have big expectations for the tally."

In between the junior varsity and varsity games, the event included an entertaining "faculty match." In addition, the survivor room welcomed special guests, while the school's Main Street was full of games with prizes, split the pot, silent auctions, raffles, mystery boxes, giveaways, and a wonderful sampling of food and drink from local vendors.

In line with other similar districts across the state, Lakota's report card looks significantly different, as compared to previous years. The drops don't correlate to waning student achievement, but more to the new and evolving set of achievement and accountability standards facing all Ohio schools.

"While I'm not proud of the actual letter grades on this year's report card, I am proud of our staff and the strides they continue making toward individual student growth," Vogelmann said. "We will always do what's in the best interest of our students, beyond the measures of the report card, and in doing so, we'll also continue chasing the high targets set by the state."

[Click here](#) to view Lakota's report card results, including more information about what makes up each measurement and some of the success measures not reflected in the report card.

During the event, the mobile mammogram van was on hand for screenings and to provide materials to educate and raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer.

Lakota East also hosts similar events that benefit the Susan G. Komen Fund as part of their Hawks for the Cure efforts. The volleyball game is slated for Sept. 29; girls soccer scheduled for Oct. 4; and football game will be held Oct. 14. Check in future editions of *This Week at Lakota* for details on these events.

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

Cherokee Students Participate in 9/11 Social Studies Lesson

Discussion Helps Students Comprehend Abstract Concepts



Fourth-graders at Cherokee Elementary create posters to show their appreciation to local firefighters and police officers, in response to a recent lesson on the events of 9/11.

“It’s hard to believe that it’s been 15 years but even harder to realize that my students were not even born yet when it happened,” states fourth grade teacher Leslie King, referring to the events of Sept. 11, 2001. That’s why students in King’s class at Cherokee Elementary participated in a special social studies lesson.

After sharing a brief summary of the day’s events, King reads a story book titled "The Little Chapel That Stood," authored by A.B. Curtiss. King explains, “It is about a small chapel that was built in the 1700s in New York city and even George Washington visited it. It was used as a resting place and gathering place for volunteers during 9/11.”

By using the story of the historic chapel that is less than 100 yards away from the Twin Tower and that miraculously survived intact, “We’re able to discuss the bravery of those who helped and put in context for the students the enormity of the event,” she explains. “I use the book to teach that no one is too small to make a difference and that we must appreciate those who serve and protect our communities.”

Cherokee Principal Valerie Montgomery adds, “For many of the students, they’ve heard bits and pieces but few people want to address the day with children. This is a simple way to help them comprehend such abstract concepts as patriotism and bravery.”

Following the book and discussion, King also had the students create posters to thank local police and fire fighters, again as a way to tie the events of 9/11 to broader learnings.

Lakota Sports Legend Named to Miami U's Esteemed "Cradle of Coaches"

Former Track and Cross Country Coach Honored By Alma Mater Sept. 9

Throughout the sports world, Miami University has a unique reputation for its "Cradle of Coaches." Legendary football coaches such as Woody Hayes, Bo Schembechler, Ara Parseghian, Weeb Ewbank, Paul Brown and Sid Gillman all had roots at Miami, and now – one of Lakota’s own joins this esteemed group.

Congratulations to Jason Lindsey, retired Lakota and Lakota East head track and cross country coach, on his recent selection for the 2016 “Cradle of Coaches” class. Lindsey and six others were inducted at a Sept. 9 ceremony at the Miami Student Union, and then honored at halftime at the university’s football game the next day.

Lindsey is the only Lakota coach to be credited with two state championship teams. He also coached athletes who won nine state individual championships, a number unmatched by any other Lakota coach.

The teams he coached brought home the remarkable total of 32 conference championships, a total unlikely to ever be matched. He's achieved innumerable "Coach of the Year" honors bestowed at the league, county, and state levels. Lindsey was inducted into the Lakota Hall of Fame in 2010 and, in 1997, into the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame.

According to Stu Eversole, former athletic director for Lakota, “Jason coached for 30 years, plus one season. In that span he coached or was co-coach for 120 teams, the first being freshman football in his first year at Lakota. Considering the squad sizes of the sports he coached, he has in all probability coached more Lakota athletes than anyone in district history.”

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

District Benefits From Auditor Giveback

Thanks to good fiscal stewardship, the Butler County auditor’s office is able to return about \$2 million in fee money county-wide. Local entities such as schools, cities and townships, libraries and parks are once again the recipients of the giveback, in which surplus real estate fund money is given back to the community.

Lakota is one of 16 Butler County school districts benefitting, receiving \$463,480 in refunded fee money. “As part of our annual budgeting forecast, we have planned to receive some funds as part of the giveback,” states Lakota Treasurer Jenni Logan.

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

Community Conversation with our Senior Citizens

During Lakota's upcoming Community Conversation, we'd like to learn more from our senior citizens – what education issues do they feel are most pertinent, what ideas do they have for addressing such needs and more. All Lakota area senior citizens are invited to join us Thursday, Sept. 22

She adds, "While the sum is a small amount when compared to our overall budget of \$145.8 million, every bit helps as we continue to hold costs and to get the best return on investment for local taxpayers. We're appreciative of Auditor Reynolds' efforts in sharing these surplus monies with our communities."

Logan adds, "Lakota continues our commitment to fiscal responsibility and stretching our dollars to make the biggest impact possible. That's evident through our balanced budget that's \$19.8 million less than the school district spent in 2010, despite state funding that has dropped 7 percent in the last five years."

[Click here for](#) more information from Lakota's Treasurer's Department.

Oct. 9 Greenskeeper Revenge Golf Outing Benefits Lakota West Golf Team

The annual Greenskeeper Revenge Golf Outing, a community fundraiser hosted by the Lakota West golf team, will be held on Oct. 9 starting at 1 p.m. at Beckett Ridge Golf Club. Sign up now for a great day of golf and fun. Tickets for the four person scramble are \$85 per player, and include golf, drink tickets, a boxed lunch, games and prizes.

[Click here](#) to view a flyer about the event. To register or for more information, please contact Chris Conway at 513-305-2723 or chris.conway@lakotaonline.com.

Reach Out Lakota's 5th Annual Celebrity Waiter Dinner Oct. 13

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be served dinner by your favorite Bengals player or Cincinnati news personality? Reach Out Lakota's annual Celebrity Waiter Dinner is your opportunity to have dinner surrounded

from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the West Chester Activity Center for a conversation and the opportunity to share their voice.

For more information, please contact Lauren Boettcher at lauren.boettcher@lakotaonline.com or (513) 874-5505.

Gifted 101 Session for Grades 7-12

Come hear about gifted identification, Lakota gifted services at each grade level, options for acceleration or advancement, as well as parent resources at the upcoming Gifted 101 session. A program for parents of students in grades 7-12 follows up last week's program for elementary students and will take place on Thursday, Sept. 22 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Lakota East High School.

For questions, please contact our Gifted Services Department at 513 644-1186 or email giftedservices@lakotaonline.com.

Opt-in for School, District Text Messages

If you wish to receive Lakota text message notifications for closures/delays,

by your favorite professional athletes, media members, leaders and personalities!

The Celebrity Waiter Dinner will be held at the Savannah Center on Thursday, Oct. 13 from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets include cocktails, appetizers, dinner and entertainment. Individual tickets are \$80 and a corporate table of 10 is \$750. For more details, [click here to visit Reach Out Lakota's website](#).

Reach Out Lakota is a local partner of the schools, with over 60 percent of the food pantry's donations August through June originating from projects sponsored by Lakota and its schools.

emergencies and other urgent school/district alerts, please pay close attention to this notice.

Even if you've already selected text message preferences through your notification account setup process, to officially begin receiving text messages via our new notification system, you must opt-in each mobile device from which you wish to receive text messages. Simply text "Y" to the short code 67587. [Click here for more details](#).

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.

Sept. 30 Deadline for Athletic Participation Grants

The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty is offering Lakota families

assistance with their children's athletic participation fees. The grant is funded by private donations and available to students in grades 7-12.

The deadline for consideration of the Community Foundation grant for Winter sports is Friday, Sept. 30. [Click here for more information and to download the application.](#)

Photo of the Week

Patriot Day at Adena



Adena Elementary held its second annual Patriot Day Ceremony Sept. 9, as a way to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. The students also honored School Resource Officer Jim Berling of the West Chester Police Department and members of the West Chester Fire Department who were in attendance.

According to Adena Principal Jodi Leichman, "During the ceremony, we chose to celebrate patriotism and the pride that we have in being citizens of the United States of America."

Boy Scout Troop #939 raised the flag to half-staff and students sang a patriotic song. There was a moment of silence, and then everyone joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- [Thursday, September 22](#) **Community Conversation with Our Senior Citizens**
10 a.m.
- [Thursday, September 22](#) **Gifted 101 for Grades 7-12, presented by Lakota Gifted Services**
6:30-7:30 p.m.
- [Monday, September 26](#) **Lakota Board of Education Meeting (Central Office)**
7 p.m.
- [Monday, October 10](#) **Lakota Board of Education Meeting (Central Office)**
7 p.m.

[See Full Calendar](#)

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Hamilton Journal-News

[Lakota student's book promotes positive self-image to young girls](#)

[How did your school perform on state report card?](#)

[Butler County schools see lower grades on state report card](#)

[UNPAID TAXES: Butler County has about \\$12 million to collect](#)

Cincinnati.com

[Are Our Schools That Bad?](#)

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 West's Greenskeeper Revenge Golf Outing: Oct. 9](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [Silver Strings Youth Orchestra \(Grades 2-12\)](#)
- [Super Saturday Program \(Ages 4-14\)](#)
- [Willy Wonka Auditions: Sept. 24 \(Ages 5-18\)](#)
- [Gifted Association Parent Day Registration: Oct. 16](#)

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

All Current
E-Flyers

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