

## Last Day of Class Marks First Day of Summer Break



Today, Friday, May 20, marked the last day of the 2015-2016 school year for all Lakota students. All area residents should be aware that many more children will now be outside playing during the day and to use caution, especially in residential areas.

The first day of school for the 2016-2017 school year is Tuesday, Aug. 16. School supply lists will be posted on the website. Be sure to check back throughout the summer for additional back-to-school information and general Lakota news.

Keep a lookout for communications over the summer about updating your notification settings for school and an improved notification system Lakota is adopting next school year. You'll need to update the information for your communications.

And you'll want to check out next week's special "graduation" edition of "This Week at Lakota," complete with interviews with our valedictorians and salutatorians.

Thank you for a great school year and we hope you enjoy your summer!

## FEATURED

### [Community Foundation Names 2016 Educators of Excellence](#)

*Highest Lakota Staff Honor Goes to Caulfield, Kornau and Rouff*

The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty led the charge in naming the 2016 recipients of the Lakota Educator of Excellence Award this week. The highest staff honor, directed by community nominations, belongs to: Todd Caulfield, sixth grade teacher at Cherokee Elementary; Tracey Kornau, physical education teacher and varsity girls volleyball coach at Lakota West High School; and Jeff Rouff, principal at Hopewell Junior.

The Community Foundation's award provides an opportunity for the community to nominate educators in the Lakota School District who demonstrate a high commitment to their students and their community.

"Every year, I am overwhelmed by the number and strength of nominations," said Erin Clemons, president and CEO for the Community Foundation. "The high quality of Lakota's educators is evident through the words of students, parents, fellow staff and even community members who have witnessed or personally benefited from their work."

The selection committee consists of both Foundation and Lakota staff reviewing the nomination letters and deliberating as a group. The award includes a \$2,000 grant for the implementation of a special project or program at the recipient's school, made possible through the generosity of private donors.

Each year, two recipients are selected to represent grades PreK-6 and 7-12, respectively. This year, the selection committee was so impressed by the portfolio of letters for Jeff Rouff that it actually added a third award, specifically to recognize a deserving administrator, without the attached monetary award.

Each recipient was honored within their school communities with a special surprise recognition. "The 'Educator of Excellence' award is a long-standing tradition at Lakota and continues to be the gold standard for teaching excellence here in our community," said Lakota Superintendent Dr. Karen Mantia.

She added, "We wanted our honorees to be surrounded by the students, parents and colleagues who have been most impacted by their influence. The three events were designed to be something very special – a moment we hope they'll remember for the remainder of their career and thereafter."

[Click here](#) for the complete story.

In addition to the 2016 Educator of Excellence recipients, the following Lakota staff members were nominated for the award:

#### Elementary Finalists (PreK-6)

- Jackie Bender – Union Elementary
- Heather Finn – Hopewell Elementary
- Jean Fox – VanGorden Elementary
- Kim Gaffney – Adena Elementary
- Julie Gunderson – Endeavor Elementary
- Danita Taylor – Cherokee Elementary
- Amy Smith – Endeavor Elementary
- Eunice Vogelsang – Liberty Early Childhood School
- Terrie Williamson – Endeavor Elementary

#### Secondary Finalists (7-12)

- Bethany Dunn – Lakota West High School
- Lisa Landers – Lakota East High School
- Rob Tanis – Lakota East High School



*Cherokee Elementary Principal Pauley receiving the award from Superintendent Dr. Karen Mantia during the award ceremony.*



*Former Lakota West volleyball player Tracey Kornau (center, holding flowers) during the award ceremony.*



Jeff Rouff (at left) receives the procla  
State Representative Margy Conditt,  
applaud in the background. The choi  
appreciation for their principal.

## Write Challenge Reception Honors Young Writers

### *Annual Writing Contest Theme was "Reality"*

A "Celebration of Writing" was held last week to honor the winners of the annual Write Challenge contest for Lakota students in grades K-12.

The competition (sponsored by the Lakota LEADS parent group) encouraged Lakota students to submit narrative essays, personal essays or poetry focused on a theme – this year's theme was "reality."

"LEADS loves the opportunity to bring the Write Challenge to our students every year," shared President Alyssa Louagie. "Lakota has extremely talented writers, and this year's winners amaze me with what they submitted for our theme, reality. They really poured a lot of creativity and imagination into every word!"

The reception included an inspiring talk from author Tracie Kleman, who is also a Lakota grad and Lakota teacher. She talked about her writing journey, and told the young writers that the writing foundation they are receiving at Lakota is second to none. Kleman told the audience that writing teaches many life lessons, among them to be a better listener, be adventurous, be original, be yourself and trust the way you see the world.

As part of the ceremony, 42 first, second, and third place winners received a certificate of recognition, a medal and a signed copy of one of Tracie Kleman's books. [Click here to see a list of the 2016 winners.](#) To see an anthology of this year's winning entries, [click here.](#)

Lakota LEADS (Lakota's Enrichment and Academic Development of Students) is a non-profit group that runs many programs and events in the district such as Pi Day, Invention Convention, ongoing book clubs, and the Write Challenge. For more information, [click here to visit the LEADS website.](#)



Winners in the K-  
right) **Bonny Kir**  
**Springmyer** (W  
ECS).



Lakota East student  
and **AJ Hanmer**  
week.

## Engineering Class Launches into the Stratosphere

*High Altitude Balloon Flight a Success*

It's quite a project when you have technical advisors from the Air Force, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). And that's exactly the group of consultants that students in the Introduction to Engineering Design class interacted with to plan their recent high altitude balloon launch.

As part of the Butler Tech class offered at Lakota East Freshman Campus, the students researched, designed prototypes and built the balloon that was rated for 100,000 feet altitude, filled with helium to provide sufficient lift into the atmosphere. The balloon was fitted with a payload of HAM radio equipment and a GPS tracker that allowed students to follow the balloon's path. There was also a six-foot diameter parachute and camera.

To prepare for the launch, several advisors from Wright Patterson Air Force Base met with the students to discuss the effects of high altitude on different objects. They also provided the students with guidance during the assembly and final preparations. Another mentor from the NOAA led the students through various computer applications involved in predicting the balloon's flightpath.

During the May 13 launch, the balloon successfully made it over 101,000 feet and the flight traveled a distance of approximately 80 miles. The balloon and payload were retrieved from a farm field about 11 miles southeast of Washington Court House, Ohio. The flight lasted about two hours and actually landed within 10 miles of the students' predicted landing site. And there is stunning video taken during the flight; [click here](#) to see video footage; you can view additional footage at [btube.butlertech.org](http://btube.butlertech.org), under the engineering category.

According to instructor Ken Kinch, "Introduction to Engineering Design is a Project Lead the Way course that allows students to better understand the engineering design process while applying math, science and engineering standards to hands-on projects. Such projects are a combination of traditional learning methods and actual trial. The balloon launch is something the students will always remember, especially since they were the designers and the tracking crew."

The high altitude balloon launch is just one such unique project the students have been involved with this year. In addition to the recent cardboard canoe regatta ([click here to read more](#)), the group also recently designed frames for two types of remote-controlled drones.

The group compared similarities and differences between a tri-copter drone (with three motors and propellers) and a penta-copter they call the Dragonfly (that boasts five motors and propellers). Students created initial designs using Autodesk Inventor, and then cut out plywood frames on the laser cutter. They then installed the electronics, bench-tested the motors and control systems, and mounted components such as motors and speed controllers.



## District, Township Partner on School Safety Training

### *May 25 Simulation at Hopewell Elementary Helps Local Responders, Schools Prepare*

Lakota Local Schools and West Chester Township work collaboratively year-round in all aspects of protecting the schools in our community. Resource officers are in the schools daily, interacting with staff and students to help enforce safety policies and procedures and proactively build relationships based on respect and open dialogue, all with the goal of preventing any compromise to student safety.

On Wednesday, May 25, West Chester Township and Lakota Local Schools will collaborate for an intensive training exercise to help local responders and school staff prepare for a potential "active shooter" scenario in a school building.





The protection of the community is the most critical service provided by West Chester Township, and the responsibility of protecting our youngest and most precious citizens is especially significant," said Township Administrator Judi Boyko. "West Chester personnel actively train for all varieties of potential circumstances and next week's training exercise will focus on one type of incident which we could face as a community."

The details of the active shooter simulation are not being disclosed for authenticity and to gain the most realistic reactions to the circumstances as they unfold. The exercise will take place at Hopewell Elementary and hundreds of volunteers will help create the sense of chaos that would most certainly result under such real circumstances.

"The safety and security of our students, staff and visitors is paramount, which is why the strong partnership we've built with both townships is so critical," said Lakota Superintendent Dr. Karen Mantia. "We maintain the highest level of trust and respect for our local responders. It takes that kind of collaboration and an exercise of this magnitude to help ensure all the key players are well-equipped and trained to handle a worst case scenario in our schools."

West Chester police and fire personnel will be deployed in response to the simulation and residents should not be alarmed by the presence of emergency response vehicles at Hopewell Elementary.

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## **Three Lakota Staffers Honored by State Organization**

*Selected for Building "Child-Friendly" Nutrition Environment*

The School Nutrition Association of Ohio (SNA) recently announced the selection of three Lakota employees as recipients of their annual awards. Congratulations to Ben Brown, principal at Union Elementary for his selection as Most Valued Principal; to Chris Passarge, Lakota's Chief Operations Officer, for his selection as Most Valued Administrator; and to Chris Burkhardt, director of child nutrition and wellness, for his selection as director of the year.

The SNA is the state chapter of a national organization that promotes healthful meals and nutrition education. The organization's mission is to advance good nutrition for all students, ensuring that Ohio's students receive the fuel they need to learn in the classroom.

The most valued principal and most valued administrator awards recognize those positions within the school system who have been instrumental in building a "child-friendly" nutrition environment. According to the SNA, "Recipients of these awards are selected based on their support of nutrition services and commitment to the philosophy that children require instruction and guidance if they are to make healthful food choices."

The director of the year award recognizes school nutrition directors for the contributions they have made throughout their school nutrition career. This award is based on the person's program enhancement, staff development and school and community involvement.

The honors will be presented to Brown, Passarge and Burkhardt at the Ohio SNA's annual conference which will be held in mid-June in northern Ohio.

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## **EVENT SPOTLIGHT**

### **Still Time to Attend Rotary Club's Buckeye BBQ Fest**

The Rotary Club of West Chester/Liberty continues their annual Buckeye BBQ Fest on Saturday, May 21 at the Square at Union Center. The event (which began Friday, May 20) features non-stop blues from 11 top bands, a classic car show, and food vendors (20 BBQ, 15 dessert, kettle corn, and more). There will also be a kids zone with inflatables and a petting zoo. The Buckeye BBQ Fest will run from noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday.

A one-day pass is \$5 per person and free for children under 12. [Click here for more details.](#) The Rotary Club is a group of entrepreneurs, experienced business leaders and community advocates—all dedicated to providing "service above self" to friends and neighbors—near and far. The group supports many Lakota community causes.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Lakota Schools Closed June 28 through July 8

*Summer School Office at Ridge Junior Open to Help with Summer Programming*

For parents' convenience, the main offices at all Lakota schools will only be closed to the public for two weeks out of the summer, from June 27 through July 8.

Lakota's Summer School office will be open during this time and available to assist with summer programming questions. Please direct all inquiries to the Ridge Junior Summer School Office at 254-0426.

School office staff will respond to all inquiries after July 8. All other urgent inquiries during this time period may be directed to Lakota's Central Office at 874-5505.

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## Open Enrollment Begins May 16 for New Open Enrollment Students

The Lakota Board of Education renewed the approval of Lakota's open enrollment policy for the 2016-2017 school year. [Under Board Policy 5113](#), students residing in other Ohio school districts can apply to attend Lakota.

Current open enrollment students receive first priority, and are guaranteed to maintain their current status if they return their completed application to the Enrollment Center by May 13.

Open enrollment for new open enrollment students begins May 16 and will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications and a list of required documents will be available by May 16 on the [Enrollment Center website](#) and are due May 31.

In an effort to keep classes at their standard size, the district places a cap on the number of open enrollment students it can accept each year. New applicants may not always receive their first school of choice, depending on the school's base enrollment for students residing within its attendance zone.

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# OPPORTUNITIES

## Hold a Food and Clothing Drive for Reach Out Lakota



**Reach Out Lakota** < size="2">

Are you looking for a worthwhile summer project for your kids? How about holding a food and clothing drive to benefit Reach

Reach Out Lakota sees the highest decline in food and monetary donations between the months of June and September each year. Holding a drive is a great way to come together to help neighbors in need throughout West Chester and Liberty Townships. For more information, please contact Tim Harmon, food coordinator.

Additional opportunities for students to get involved with the organization this summer are also available. Please contact fundraising and donor relations at [jpgravely@reachoutlakota.org](mailto:jpgravely@reachoutlakota.org) or 276-358-0128.

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## Open Houses Scheduled for Options Academy-Wokini

Butler Tech's Options Academy-Wokini is now accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Open house events will be held on Tuesday, May 24 and Tuesday, June 7 from 5-7 p.m. Day time visits are also available by appointment.

Options Academy-Wokini is a partnership between Butler Tech and Lakota Local Schools that provides an alternative learning environment for Lakota students in grades 9-12.

Wokini offers students a different path to the education they need. Some students find that a non-traditional setting better suits their educational needs. At Wokini, students enjoy being part of a smaller group of students, and teachers help set a pace that's right for each student.

If you would like more information about Options Academy-Wokini, please contact [cifuentesp@butlertech.org](mailto:cifuentesp@butlertech.org) or call 513-874-7660.

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## E-FLYERS: What's New 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.

### Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [Corporate Food Fight to Benefit Reach Out Lakota - Starts June 1](#)
- [Lakota FC Soccer Club Tryouts \(Ages Groups U6-U17\)](#)
- [Flag Football Fanatics Fall Registration \(Ages 3-14\)](#)
- [i9 Sports Summer Basketball & T-Ball, Multi-Sport Camp \(Ages 3-14\)](#)
- [Lakota Family YMCA Day Camps - May/August \(Grades 1-10\)](#)
- [LSO Fall Flag Football Registration \(Ages 5-17\)](#)
- [LSO Fall Baseball Registration \(Ages 5-14\)](#)
- [LSO Fall MiniKickers Soccer Program Registration \(Ages 2-4\)](#)
- [LSO Fall Volleyball Registration \(Grades 3-8\)](#)
- [LSO Fall Softball - Fast Pitch Registration \(Ages 5-15\)](#)
- [LSO Fall Soccer Program Registration \(U6-U19\)](#)
- [LSO Summer 3v3 Recreational Soccer League Registration](#)
- [MetroPark's Summer Adventure Camp - June/August \(Ages 3-13\)](#)
- [Midpoint Library Summer Reading Program: June 1-July 31 \(All ages\)](#)
- [The Healthcare Connection \(Forest Park, Lincoln Heights and Mt. Healthy\)](#)
- [The Hidden Face of Suburbia: Living with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues sponsored by the Caring Community Collaborative - June 2](#)
- [West Chester Silver Strings Summer Camp - June 13-17](#)
- [Ages & Stages: A New Era of Parenting Program hosted by Cincinnati Children's and Liberty Center - June 11](#)



To view all of the current flyers, please [click here to go to Lakota's E-Flyers page](#). For flyers specific to a school, please visit that school's website. Woodland Elementary's second annual Literacy Luau was a huge success! Families enjoyed an even

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**PHOTOS OF THE WEEK**  
*Woodland Elementary's Literacy Luau*



**Woodland Elementary's second annual Literacy Luau was a huge success! Families enjoyed a fun evening while receiving helpful tips to continue academic growth over the summer. Guests visited several stations including math, technology, and "Reader's Beach" where students received several free books and then settled in to read at the "beach." Ajanae Davidson, Victoria Clark, Lillie Pruitt, Larell Asafu-Adjaye, Dawson Reip (top photo) pose with their bags full of free books, all set for summer reading, while Abigail, Evan and Jodie**

Rutherford (bottom photo) enjoy refreshments during the luau.



## **UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS**

**Monday, May 23**

**Lakota Board of Education Meeting - Central Office - 7 p.m.**

**Monday, May 30**

**Memorial Day Holiday - District is Closed**

**Tuesday, May 31**

## Summer School Begins

**Monday, June 13**

**Lakota Board of Education Meeting - Central Office - 7 p.m.**

**Monday, June 27**

**Lakota Board of Education Meeting - Central Office - 7 p.m.**

**Monday, July 18**

**Lakota Board of Education Meeting - Central Office - 7 p.m.**

**Monday, August 8**

**Lakota Board of Education Meeting - Central Office - 7 p.m.**

**Tuesday, August 16**

**First Day of School for Students**

**More district events...**

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## **LAKOTA 'IN THE NEWS'**

**Journal-News**

**Ohio schools study federal transgender bathroom directive**

**Today's Pulse**

**Summer Food Program**

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## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

**Lakota's Homepage**

**More District News**

**District Calendar**

**Lakota on Facebook**

**Archived Newsletters**