



This Week At Lakota



Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

October 20, 2017

Leading the Way

Featured Presentation



Parent Engagement Programs Take Off, Improve Academic Performance

When parents are engaged in their child's education, their academic performance improves. It is this belief that drives Angie Brown to always be on the lookout for new ideas to engage parents and their children. Brown, who coordinates parent engagement and community outreach for Lakota Local Schools, spearheads events such as Community Fanfares, students helping senior citizens at Partners in Prime, Barber Shop, Books and Boys, as well as many others throughout the district.

Brown's goal is to have parents actively engaged in their child's education. This may be attending a school-sponsored event, or lending a hand when a principal reaches out for help. For example, the principal at Woodland Elementary School reached out to Brown a few years ago, troubled by the number of tardy students. As a result, the "Get to School on Time Club" was born. As children walked to school, the parents would call one another to let them know that the kids were coming down the street. Parents would then go outside to say "good morning" and "have a great day" to each child. This grass roots effort grew to include 80 children.

Barber Shop, Books and Boys takes place the first Tuesday of every month. Boys in grades one through six can attend with their fathers, grandfathers, uncles or any male role model in their life. They are able to visit the barber shop and enjoy reading as a small community, while receiving a free haircut (see photo above).

Another example of encouraging parents engagement is Community Fanfares. Parents and community members are encouraged to join Lakota staff members at schools prior to student arrival. The students are greeted by cheers, high-fives and words of encouragement to start their day (see photo above from Adena Elementary).

Brown believes in the 'seven touches of seven,' meaning it may take seven invitations before a parent attends one of the outreach events. She and her team of 20 parent ambassadors continue to reach out to parents regularly, saying, "There is a difference between being involved and being engaged."

A new opportunity for parents will take place on Wednesday, November 8 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at Lakota's Central Office, 5572 Princeton Road. The workshop will focus on building a growth-oriented home that can empower children to engage in challenging work, rise up after failure and establish beliefs about their abilities that will fuel them throughout their lives. Participants will leave with engaging ideas, techniques and ways to provide productive feedback that will transform their home and inspire their children.

For a complete list of programs and events happening throughout the district, visit the community page of www.lakotaonline.com.

Around Lakota

School Spotlights

Lakota West Staff Makes Dance Experiences Extra Special



Every fall, Nicole Lampe and the rest of the Special Education staff at Lakota West host a special homecoming event. Their students are invited to West to enjoy dinner with their friends in a festive environment with balloons, tablecloths, and even a selfie station complete with fun hats and glasses.

After dinner, the staff takes the students to the dance early for some dancing before it gets too crowded.

"Our students love it! Without it, many of our students with differences would miss out on the experience," said West Assistant Principal Jaclyn Cruse. "We take the kids down on the dance floor and take a group picture. For some students, they leave after this, because the lights being off or the noise may be too much. But for them, they still get the experience."

Staff members are on hand during the dance so students that stay have a familiar face or a safe place to sit if they need a break. This year 27 students took part in the dinner and dance, and there are also regular education students that stop by to visit and take photos.

The homecoming event is just one of the activities put on by the Special Education team. They also host a Prom dinner where students receive donated corsages and boutonnieres, get their photos taken by a professional photographer, and have dinner at a local restaurant.

Students are also invited to football games, with staff on hand to help when needed. In addition, the department holds a monthly after school Social Club where regular education students and special needs students get together to play games and interact with each other.

'Stuff the Pig' Just One of Creekside's Teacher-Led Service Projects



Creekside Early Childhood School's teacher-based teams (TBTs) were presented with a challenge at the start of the school year: come up with a way to help or honor people in the community by creating a school-wide event.

Last week, one of the teams held a fun event where students and staff wore pink and brought in donations to stuff a cute pig created by the school's art teacher. Students loved peering in the pig's snout and stuffing it with donations for the Pink Ribbon Girls (PRG), an organization that provides transportation, meals, house cleaning and other support to local families who have a loved one suffering from breast or ovarian cancer. A PRG representative was on hand to collect the donations, giving the students high-fives and thanking them for helping others.

Not only was the event fun, but it raised \$1,869!

"Our TBTs have really stepped up to create some neat projects – they have already helped to create a community lending library and the recent 'Stuff the Pig' project supported breast cancer awareness month," said Creekside Principal Linda Pavlinac. "Other teams are planning to collect pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, hold a Donate for a Donut clothing drive for our clinic, and host a holiday sharing program where the community can enjoy songs and music performed by students."

Plains Eighth-Graders Experience College, Career Choices at 'Discover STEM' Conference



Plains Junior School eighth-graders accounted for nearly a quarter of the area students who attended the recent Discover STEM Conference, a college and career fair hosted by the Butler County Educational Service Center (BCESC).

The event helped familiarize students with area businesses and educational institutions that have a focus in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students spent an entire day rotating among interactive workshops centered on such industries and educational pathways as health and medical sciences, robotics technology, construction engineering, agricultural, architectural, and more.

Plains students experienced everything from welding, robotics and virtual reality to the science behind making chocolate and a team-building activity mimicking an escape room. A "Tinker Tank" session allowed students to bounce among several different hands-on stations, working independently or in teams, to design and create without restriction.



"Experiences like these help our students get excited about learning and help them see high-demand professions as possible futures," said Plains Junior math teacher Aaron Nunley. "It's great to have the support of the BCESC to bring together students and professionals from all over the county."

A release from the BCESC shared the conference's goal: "To make a positive difference in the lives of young men and women, especially as they think about STEM-related careers. The College and Career Fair will allow the students to learn directly from industry professionals what a specific career and/or educational pathway might be like for them, what they need to focus on in their studies to prepare, and what goals they need to focus on to succeed."

First Edition of "A Look around Lakota"



Lakota Local Schools is proud to share the first edition of a new monthly video update, "A Look Around Lakota." The October edition features just some of the latest highlights and happenings around Lakota, as shared by Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller.

From the district's progress on the latest report card to innovative strategies driving instruction, the learning environment at Lakota is more vibrant than ever. The district's acceptance into the prestigious League of Innovative Schools is another positive step toward increased opportunities for Lakota students and staff.

You'll also hear about the unique spin on this year's district-wide "Stuff the Bus" food drive for Reach Out Lakota, as well as the community's display of support for our students through this year's student fanfares.

[Click here to view the October edition of "A Look Around Lakota"](#) and stay tuned for more video updates as the year continues.

Teachers Show How #WEareNetworked throughout Lakota Learning Day



Superintendent Matthew Miller kicked off Lakota Learning Day by introducing the theme for the day, #WEareNetworked.

On October 16th, the teachers became the students during Lakota Learning Day. The day's theme, #WEareNetworked, set the tone for the day's professional development sessions. Following a successful PD day in September, Lakota's curriculum department put the call out to teachers and staff members for not only session ideas, but volunteers to lead them. This resulted in over 100 teachers leading more than 75 separate sessions.

"People like having choices in their day," said Keith Koehne, Executive Director of Curriculum. "The morning was designed to give teachers the chance to attend sessions that they are interested in. A common request we hear is that teachers need more time to collaborate and plan so the afternoon gave the teachers the opportunity to collaborate with one another on topics they are interested in."

Superintendent Matthew Miller began the day speaking about the different ways #WEareNetworked. "I'm very excited that it is teachers sharing with teachers today. As teachers, we are networked with our peers, not only in our own building, but across the district. At Lakota, #WEareNetworked within our district and with other like-minded, forward-thinking schools across Ohio and the country."

Teachers took to Twitter to share what they were learning throughout the day.

Ryan Corris @RyanCorris · Oct 16
A lot of great things happened today. I love it when WE come together and get things done! #WEareNetworked
#WEareLakota

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Perfect ACT Score

A big shout-out to Lakota West senior **Steven Sweeney**, who earned a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT exam. Broken into four sections, the ACT assesses high school students on English, math, reading and science aptitude. Each test receives an individual score and the composite score is the average of the four scores. Congratulations on this incredible achievement, Steven!



Creating a Popular Running Club

A big thank you to Freedom sixth grade teacher, **Wendy Meister** who saw the need for a school running club for all ages, sexes and unlimited participants... so she created one! Over 75 students signed up and practiced twice a week for seven weeks. The club participated in three area races, including the Optimist Club's "Run for Youth". Wendy coached several students to win their age divisions and Freedom won the award for participation and achievement. All voluntary and all on her own time – way to go, Wendy!

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

Superintendent Miller Talks on 'Listen Up Lakota' Oct. 20, 26

Tune in to WMKV 89.3FM, WLHS 89.9FM Friday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. for a special edition of "Listen Up Lakota." This month's radio interview features Lakota Local Schools Superintendent Matthew Miller and Reach Out Lakota CEO Peyton Gravely discussing the

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

"Stuff the Bus" Food Drive Ends Oct. 27

To celebrate the 10th annual district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota, Lakota Local Schools and the Lakota Board of Education issued a new challenge this year to the Lakota

longstanding partnership between both organizations, including the twist on this year's 10th annual district-wide food drive.

Miller discusses other philanthropic efforts around Lakota, including the new "Casual for a Cause" program available to staff. He also talks about the significance of Lakota's acceptance into the League of Innovative Schools national network.

The interview will be streaming at WMKVFM.org and will run again at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26. A link to the podcast will be available following the broadcast.



Oct. 21 Empty Bowls Features Student Artwork

The Caring Community Collaborative (C3) will hold its third annual Empty Bowls lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, in Sabin Hall at Liberty Center.

Those attending the event select and take home a handcrafted bowl made by local artists, including many Lakota art students. Attendees enjoy a choice of soup, breads, desserts, and refreshments all prepared specially by local chefs and restaurants. Lakota West students will be providing live musical entertainment. There are two seatings, at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The donation is \$20 per person (\$10 for youth).

To register, visit [C3emptybowls.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/c3emptybowls) or call 513-939-9255. For more information, email contact@C3Ohio.org.

community, as well as two neighboring communities.

Lakota will go up against Mason City Schools and Hamilton City Schools, each district working to pack a school bus with the most canned goods and other items. The final collection will go to a local relief organization serving their communities.

Donation bins are available in every Lakota school for canned goods and other non-perishable items. Each school will have the opportunity to help "stuff the bus" as our collection bus visits different locations. [Click here to view a flyer](#), including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.

The drive will continue through Oct. 25. The final collection points will be Oct. 27 at the last home games of the year (East vs. Mason and West vs. Hamilton, both at 7 p.m.)

Community Conversation on Student Stress, Anxiety Oct. 25

Lakota will hold a Community Conversation on Oct. 25 to discuss the stresses and anxieties on students, and the roles of parents, schools and the community in helping students deal with them.

Proceeds from the event are used to support Reach Out Lakota's ongoing efforts to provide food and clothing to families in need in the local community, and the Faith Alliance Summer Lunch and Literacy Program, which helps more than 400 children during the summer.

The third annual West Chester/Liberty Township Empty Bowls event to benefit Reach Out Lakota and the Faith Alliance Summer Lunch Program will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21 in Sabin Hall at Liberty Center.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee Parent Session Oct. 23

Lakota's Curriculum and Special Education Departments are hosting an event for parents who wish to better understand the Third Grade Reading Guarantee state law and its impact on K-3 students.

Parents will learn about how the law affects students with disabilities as well as students who are going through the intervention process. The session will also share resources for a productive parent-teacher conference.

The event is open parents of children in grades K-3. It will be held Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Union Elementary in the media center (7672 LeSourdsville-West Chester Rd., West Chester).

Oct. 24: Transition Meeting on Project Life and Project Search

Project Life and Project Search programs will be highlighted at Lakota's October Parent Transition Meeting. Parents and students who attend will learn more about these two Butler Tech post secondary programs, as well as have the opportunity to meet staff and ask questions.

The Project Life and Project Search programs are designed for IEP students that have met graduation requirements, but want to continue developing employability skills as well as life skills as they transition toward independence and obtaining a job in the community.

At this Community Conversation, district leaders hope to understand the experiences of parents and students dealing with these issues. This could include social media and its use and effects, bullying, depression and other social and emotional health issues, and more.

The Community Conversation will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Lakota Central Office, at 5572 Princeton Road, in Liberty Township. All are welcome.

JTHF Book Drive Continues through October

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.

During the month of October, 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

The meeting will be held at the Lakota Central Office on Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. and should last approximately an hour. Students are encouraged to attend with their parents or guardians.

Lakota Gifted Services Presents Career Night Nov. 2

Interested in technology, gaming, or just what a career path might look like when you aren't exactly sure what you want to do?

Lakota Gifted Services invites students in grades 7-12 to hear from James Gwertzman, CEO & Co-Founder at PlayFab, Inc. via Skype from Seattle, he will share about his not so direct career path and experiences in the world of technology, coding and gaming.

The event will take place Thursday, Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakota's Central Office (5572 Princeton Road, Liberty Township).

[Click here to view the event flyer](#). Questions may be directed to Lakota's Gifted Services Department at (513) 644-1186 or giftedservices@lakotaonline.com.

Liberty Junior Celebrates 40th Anniversary Nov. 4

Liberty Junior School is gearing up to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

The Lakota community is invited to the school on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 2 – 4 p.m. for an open house. Come and see how Liberty Junior has changed through the years, tour the school, and meet current students and staff.

Liberty Junior School is located at 7055 Dutchland Parkway in Liberty Township. For more information, call 513-777-4420.

Lakota East Theatre Presents "A Ghost Tale for Mister Dickens"

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 ithbookdrive@hotmail.com or 404-4977.

Child Nutrition Seeking Part-time Cafeteria Workers

Are you looking to get more involved with your child's school or other schools around Lakota? Are you looking for work that is flexible and follows school hours?

Lakota's Child Nutrition Department is seeking part-time and substitute cafeteria cashiers, servers and lunch attendants to help prep, serve, and most importantly, provide nutritious meals to students. Applicants should be available to work school days between the hours of 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. You can also request a specific school assignment.

The starting pay is from \$11.29 to \$12.23 per hour, with paid holidays.

You can apply online on the school district's web site, at www.lakotaonline.com.

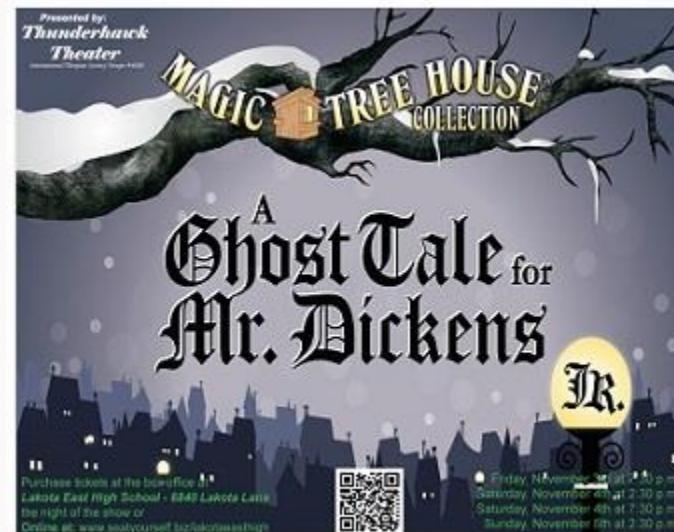
A Ghost Tale for Mister Dickens is an enchanting children's play based off of the popular "Magic Tree House" series written by Mary Pope Osborne. The series follows Jack and his sister Annie and their adventures in their magic tree house that whisks them through history.

In the play, Jack and Annie are sent to Victorian England on a mission by the wizard Merlin to help out the notorious author Charles Dickens. Mister Dickens has lost his purpose in writing and Jack and Annie must bring it back with the help of three ghosts and Jack's magic violin.

Come see if they can do it all in time for Christmas!

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 3-5 and also at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 4.



Tickets Now On Sale for Lakota West's "To Kill a Mockingbird"

The Lakota West Theatre Department will present *To Kill a Mockingbird* based on the acclaimed book by Harper Lee on Nov. 10 and 11.

SPARK Hosts 'Meet the Candidates' Event for School Board

Lakota East High School's student news magazine, SPARK, is hosting a "Meet the Candidates" event on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Lakota East Freshman School. The session is open to any West Chester or Liberty Township resident.

Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions and hear from each school board candidate about their stance on different school issues. The candidates are running for election on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Upcoming Community Fanfares: All Welcome

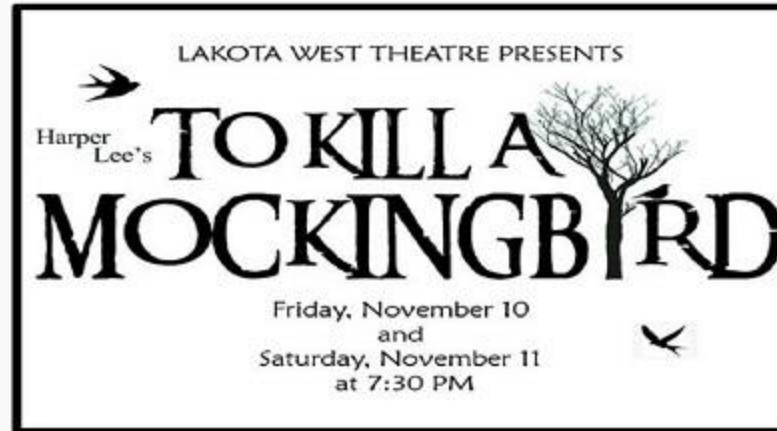
Community fanfare events have returned for the 2017-18 school year.

The concept is a simple one: Line the school's entrance and give students high-fives and words of encouragement as they are filing into school, providing students with a visual display of all their supporters during

The play is set in 1935, and racial tensions are high in Maycomb, Alabama. Nonetheless, young Jean Louise Finch -- or Scout, as she is fondly called -- manages to live a rather carefree, privileged existence, insulated from issues of race. All that changes when Scout watches her father, Atticus

Finch, defend an innocent man, Tom Robinson, against a potential death sentence, which looms threateningly against him because of prejudice due to race. Scout begins to realize that just because society portrays something as being true doesn't mean that it actually is fact. With the help of Atticus, and her older brother Jem, Scout learns that "growing up" often means doing what is right, even when it comes at great cost. *To Kill A Mockingbird* is now considered an American masterpiece about the power of childhood innocence, morality, and love.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$13 at the door. Show times are 7:30 p.m. each evening. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets.



Lakota East Craft Show Set for Nov. 11-12

The Lakota East PTSO Holiday Arts and Craft Show will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on Nov. 11 and 12.

Please join in the celebration with over 200 crafters and artisans for a one-stop shopping experience. You'll find unique gift ideas for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list. The event includes free parking, an onsite ATM and concessions.

November 11

9 - 10 a.m. (\$5 early bird admission)
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (\$2 admission)

times like testing and the start of a new semester.

Every Lakota school will host a fanfare at some point throughout the school year. Please plan to join us at any one or more of the fanfares over the next month:

October 23

Shawnee Early Childhood School
9 a.m.

October 30

Ridge Junior School
7 a.m.

November 3

Liberty Junior School
7:05 a.m.

November 27

Lakota West High School
7:15 a.m.

[Click here for more details and the complete schedule.](#)

November 12

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (\$2 admission)

Grab a friend, neighbor and family member to enjoy the day at Lakota East. Students are admitted for free.

LEADS Book Club is Back Nov. 13

The LEADS Book Club will meet on Nov. 13 in the media center at Union Elementary. The book selection for Rockin' Readers (grades 2-4) is *Frindle* by Andrew Clements and the Novel Bunch (grades 4-6) will be discussing *Hatchet* by Glen Paulson. Spots are limited so sign up now! [Click here to RSVP](#) by Nov. 6. [Click here to view a flyer](#) with details.

Students Assign Grades in Annual MLK Day Writing, Art Contest, Participate by Nov. 27

As part of our community's 19th annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, all Lakota students are invited to participate in a contest that promotes self-reflection about diversity and inclusion in our community and nationwide. This year's "Making the Grade" theme challenges students to grade themselves and our country on our progress toward living MLK's dream for equality. It is part of the community-wide observance of MLK Day, known as the "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" celebration.

Students in junior high and high school are to submit in writing the equivalent to a two-minute speech. Elementary students may respond through the artistic medium of their choice or through writing.

In addition to an individual's entry, classes, troops, or youth organizations for students in grades K-12 who would like to enter the contest as a group project are invited to be as creative as possible, with skits, songs, artwork or videos that can be presented within a two-minute time limit.

Entries should be submitted to the student's building principal or to the West Chester or Liberty Township Administration offices. The deadline for entering is Monday, November 27, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.

All contest entries will be displayed at the community commemoration on January 15 at Lakota West High School, where winners will share their entries with the public. The March for Unity will begin at noon at Union Centre's Clock Tower and conclude at Lakota West, where the program will lead into a free lunch donated by local restaurants. [Click here to access the entry form and more contest details.](#)

Photo of the Week



Schools Across the District 'Stuff the Bus'

Heritage Elementary Student Council leaders had the honor of “stuffing the bus” with the piles of donations their classmates had helped collect for the ongoing “WE are Lakota” district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota. To celebrate the program’s 10th year and the district’s unified effort, this year’s challenge put Lakota up against two neighboring schools districts, Mason City Schools and Hamilton City Schools, to collect the most items for their respective relief organizations.

Through Oct. 25, the collection bus is making appearances at different Lakota schools to pick up their donations. Bins are available at every Lakota building and the final collection points will be Oct. 27 at the last home games of the year (East vs. Mason and West vs. Hamilton, both at 7 p.m.)

[Click here to view a flyer about the drive, including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.](#)

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- Monday, October 23
[**Community Fanfare for Students at Shawnee ECS**](#)
9 - 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, October 23
[**Ready to Read? Parent Session on Third Grade Reading Guarantee**](#)
at Union Elementary Media Center
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 23
[**Lakota Board of Education Meeting**](#)
at Lakota Central Office
7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 25
[**Community Conversation on Student Stress, Anxiety**](#)
at Lakota Central Office
6:30 p.m.

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Hamilton-Journal News

[Love Lakota schools? There's a new way to give back](#)

[Lakota digital learning gets bump with national group membership](#)

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 East Arts & Crafts Show - November 11/12](#)

[LEADS Book Club - November 13 \(Grades 2-6\)](#)

[Technology/Coding/Gaming Career Night presented by Gifted Services - November 2 \(Students/Parents Grades 7-12\)](#)

[Parent Transition Meeting on Project Search and Project Life: October 24](#)

- Friday, October 27
District-wide 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive Ends
- Monday, October 30
Student Fanfare Event at Ridge Junior School (Community Invited)
7 a.m.
- Thursday, November 2
Career Night hosted by Gifted Services
at Lakota Central Office
6:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 3
Student Fanfare Event at Liberty Junior School (Community Invited)
7:05 - 7:30 a.m.
- Friday, November 3
Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens
Lakota East Theater
7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 4
Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens
Lakota East Theater
2:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 5
Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens

[What Parents Need to Know about the Third Grade Reading Guarantee: October 23 \(Grades K-3\)](#)

[Lakota West Band Night Fundraiser at Jag's: November 4](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

[Ages & Stages Monthly Parenting Event Series hosted by Cincinnati Children's Liberty Campus - October 21: The Opioid Crisis](#)

[Empty Bowls to benefit Reach Out Lakota and the Faith Alliance Summer Lunch Program - October 21](#)

[Teen Film School at Edge Teen Center \(Starts October 23\)](#)

Gold Medal Archery Winter Programs:
[December-March](#)

[Join Girl Scouts at Adena \(Grades 2-3\)](#)

[Join the Girl Scouts at Adena \(Grade 4\)](#)

[KylerStrong 2nd Annual Jamboree at Neiderman Farm: November 19](#)

[Seussical the Musical presented by Royal Theatre Company - November 3-5](#)

[MLK, Jr. Making the Grade Contest: November 27 Deadline \(Grades K-12\)](#)

Lakota East Theater
2:30 p.m.

All Current
E-Flyers

See Full
Calendar

Lakota Central Office
5572 Princeton Road
Liberty Township, OH 45011-9726
Phone: (513) 874-5505
Lakota@lakotaonline.com



Notification
Preferences