

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

September 8, 2017

## Leading the Way

*Featured Presentation*



*Cherokee Elementary students with the donations they collected in support of Matthew 25 Ministries' relief to Hurricane Harvey victims.*

## #WEareInnovators Drives Collaborative Lakota Learning Day for Staff

Lakota students may have been off school last Friday, but the classrooms at Lakota East and West were filled with learners. Lakota staff held its first Lakota Learning Day of the year, and the #WEareInnovators theme guided the day's activities.

Throughout the day, Twitter was abuzz with staff tweets using the 'WE are Innovators' hashtag, like this one from an Independence fourth grade teacher:

**Jenny Garwood** @luckeyfrog

Feeling a lot more energy in the room than I've ever felt on a district PD Day!  
Keynote from @LakotaSuper #WEareInnovators #WEareLakota

That energy began with the keynote address from Superintendent Matt Miller, whose vision for instruction is innovation through collaboration. "Staff is the driving force behind defining and executing innovation in our classrooms. Together, we are the ones who will build this."

For the first time, the district brought curriculum, special services and technology together for Lakota Learning Day. In the morning, staff members were able to personalize their learning experience, choosing from over 25 sessions. These workshops were led by their peers, who shared their expertise on hot topics and key issues facing educators.

Twitter again captured the excitement staff members felt as they attended these sessions.

**Krista Heidenreich** @kheidlearn4life

Learning from real life stories-importance of empathy in classroom mgmt-relationships matter! @jhaynes\_teach @AbbyDetcher #WEareInnovators

**Mary Brophy** @broph6

@kindybrown loved talking with Lakota staff about their learning spaces!  
Thanks @Lakota\_Learning. #WEareLakota #weareinnovators

## Lakota Gives Back: Schools Rally for Hurricane Harvey Victims

The movement at Lakota West that produced thousands of T-shirts and shoes for the victims of Hurricane Harvey started with a single tweet from Lakota West Principal Elgin Card.

"Hey Firebirds...the first 10 pairs of shoes and 20 West shirts came from my closet! Who is next!" read his message, in response to a national call for support from University of Houston basketball coach Kelvin Sampson.

A follow-up tweet from Athletic Director Scott Kaufman further amplified Card's message, sending the Lakota West community, including many of its coaches and their players, into a frenzy of collection. Between the big push at West's home football game, donation bins lining Main Street, and even large donations coming in from alumni like Philadelphia Eagles linebacker Jordan Hicks, the final shipment was impressive in size.

"Where there's a need, whether it be down in Houston or right here in West Chester, our students and staff rally together to make a difference," Card said. "Our students really rose to the challenge on this one. Giving back and supporting others are some of the most important lessons we can teach them." West students also wrote letters of encouragement that are being sent to those in Texas affected by the hurricane.

In the afternoon, staff members were given time to collaborate and apply their learning into upcoming plans for instruction. “The afternoon was about taking the energy from the morning sessions and bringing it into the classroom,” said Keith Koehne, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

The momentum from Lakota Learning Day will continue with upcoming professional development days in October and November. Superintendent Miller has also introduced voluntary Twitter Ed Chats each Wednesday evening, another new opportunity for staff members to come together and share their thoughts and ideas to bring innovation and collaboration into the classroom.



Shawnee Early Childhood School was among others at Lakota that jumped in to answer Coach Sampson’s challenge, specifically. But all around Lakota, students and staff came together to contribute to the cause in some way.

At Lakota East High School, for example, the drive for donations was tagged “Hoops for Houston.” Led by the men’s basketball team, in partnership with 40:31 Ministries, the team challenged the East community to help fill 100 boxes with clothing and bedding items. A box-packing event featured a presentation about “Leading Courageously” led by NFL Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz.

Many others throughout the Lakota community teamed up with local churches and organizations like Matthew 25 Ministries to support the cause.

“This show of support is exactly the kind of thing behind the saying, ‘We are Lakota,’” said Lakota Superintendent Matt Miller. “We can do great things together.”

## Around Lakota

### *School Spotlights*

## Student Spotlight: East Football Kicker Helps Kids with Cancer

*Sophomore Gavin Myers Raising Funds, Hosting Family Night*



Each time East football player Gavin Myers kicks a field goal or an extra point, it means much more than putting points up on the scoreboard.

Gavin is a Kick-It Champion, partnering with Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation to help make a difference in the lives of children battling cancer. Each point that Gavin scores raises money that will be used to help pay medical expenses for families with children fighting cancer. To date, the generosity of the community has helped Gavin raise over \$2,400, surpassing his original goal of \$1,000. He hopes to double or even triple his goal by the end of the football season.

Gavin personally knows how cancer can affect a family. He lost an aunt last June to breast cancer and his other aunt was diagnosed with the same cancer last April. "I know there is nothing greater than spending time with your family," said Gavin. That's why he is also planning a family night for some of Lakota's childhood cancer warriors. He is inviting families to be his guest at the Thunderhawk varsity football game on Oct. 13, treating them to tickets and snacks. "I want it to be a night where they can put illness aside and just be a kid and a family." If your family is interested in the Oct. 13 family night, contact Gavin at [gavinmaster2001@hotmail.com](mailto:gavinmaster2001@hotmail.com).

If you would like to help Gavin make a difference in the lives of children battling cancer, visit his [Kick-It Champion page](#). There will also be a table set up at Lakota East home football games (except Oct. 13) where community members can learn more about the fundraiser.

Gavin was recognized at the Aug. 28 Lakota Board of Education meeting for his Kick-It fundraising efforts, and on Monday he was featured on Fox 19 ([click here](#) to see the video). He plans to hold his Kick-It fundraiser each year and hopes to get more kickers and punters involved next year.

## Students Learn Powerful Lessons During Wheelchair Basketball Games at Cherokee Elementary



Students took away some powerful life lessons during a recent wheelchair basketball assembly at Cherokee Elementary. They learned that:

- People have more similarities than differences.
- Tough times may happen but you can persevere despite your circumstance.
- Being a good friend or family member is really important.

And the students had a lot of fun doing it.

Students and staff had the opportunity to participate in wheelchair basketball games and cheer on classmates, all part of Skoolaid's Disability Awareness Program. The school became aware of the organization because fifth-grader Landyn Bomar plays on a wheelchair basketball team.

Before the games began, Skoolaid's Jacob Counts shared his story about how a poor choice led to an accident that left him an amputee. He then talked about how he persevered and went on to play wheelchair basketball in college and in the Olympics. "Normally, when you meet someone different, you might be a little apprehensive," said Counts. "But when you bring in that element of sport, it helps people become more comfortable. That's the powerful thing about our presentation. We can talk about our differences surrounded by something we all love, sports."

"Staff and students have told me again and again that the assembly was so positive, and so inspiring," said Cherokee counselor Audrey Young. "We hope to have Skoolaid back to partner with our gym teacher on another opportunity later this school year."

[Click here](#) for more information on Skoolaid and to view a video about its Disability Awareness Program.

## Superintendent Miller Holds First Coffee Chat

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One of the most recent stops in Lakota Superintendent Matt Miller's ongoing community listening tour was on Wednesday morning at his first Coffee Chat. More than 30 parents and residents gathered at Einstein Bros. Bagels off Allen Road to meet Miller, learn more about his vision for Lakota, and also provide input based on their own experiences.

"It was great to see so many people excited about the future of our schools and invested enough to spend their morning with me," Miller said. "The more I hear from people, the more I can understand the work we need to prioritize to take Lakota to the next level for the good of all our students."

In his opening remarks, Miller highlighted some of the values driving his educational philosophy, including the "3Es" – Enrolled, Employed or Enlisted. Promoting early exploration as a way to help students find their path, in any of these areas, is a priority for him. He also touched on his passion for letting the student voice guide Lakota's work, as well as the importance of staff collaboration and the sharing of best practices.

For an hour on the first Wednesday every month, Superintendent Miller will be available for drop-in conversation with parents and residents at local coffee shops (rotating between West Chester and Liberty Township locations). The times will vary to accommodate different schedules.

The chats, paired with the Community Conversations happening with staff at every Lakota school, support one of Miller's top priorities to listen to as many students, staff members, parents, residents and community and business leaders as possible.

Mark your calendar for the next coffee chat with Superintendent Miller on Oct. 4 from 2-3 p.m. at Coffee Beans and Brew. Coffee Chat times and locations for the remainder of the year are available on the Superintendent page of Lakota Online.

[View All District News](#)

## New Business

*Announcements & Opportunities*

**Tonight: Future Hawks & Future Firebirds Night**

## On The Radar

*Quick Links & Reminders*

Both Lakota East and Lakota West invite their early childhood and elementary feeder schools to special festivities before and after their home football games this evening.

Lakota East's annual Future Hawks Night begins at 5:30 p.m. Eastside early childhood and elementary schools will be providing music, games and giveaways for some pre-game fun. At 6:10 p.m., students will have the opportunity to gather with their school community for a Future Hawks parade around the Hawks Nest.

Lakota West's Future Firebird Night activities run from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. There will be carnival games and face painting for westside early childhood and elementary students, as well as a parade around the football field. The pre-game band performance will also include all West eight and ninth grade band students.

After the pre-game festivities at both high schools, the students will return to their families to enjoy the game.

Admission is free to pre-game festivities and the football game for feeder school students in grades K-6. Students must attend the pregame festivities for free admission to the game. There is a general admission fee of \$7 for adults and students in grades 7-12.

## Lakota High Schools Celebrate 20th Anniversary with Fireworks

This year marks 20 years that Lakota High School split into Lakota East and Lakota West high schools.

All week long, Lakota East students and staff have been celebrating this milestone. A special spirit week had staff members dressing in black tie apparel, wearing outfits from the decade they graduated from high school, and more.

The festivities will culminate tonight at the Lakota East vs. Princeton varsity football game. The fun will include Future Hawks Night (see article above) before kick-off, and after the game there will be a Rozzi's fireworks show.

## Sept. 10 LEADS Family Picnic Features Scientific Mayhem

Mark your calendars for the annual LEADS Family Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 10.

The LEADS (Lakota Enrichment and Academic Development of Students) Parent Group is an affiliate of the Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC). LEADS exists to provide enrichment opportunities for students and families in the district and to support families on their gifted education journey. Click here to learn more about [LEADS](#).

This year's Family Picnic will be held on Sept. 10 at Keehner Park beginning at 5 p.m. Families are asked to pack their dinner and drinks, and LEADS will provide dessert and entertainment. Families will have a fun time with science this year -- [Scientific Mayhem](#) will be on hand at 6 p.m.

[Click here to register](#) and [view the event flyer](#).

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## Join Lakota West for 'Volley for the Cure' on Sept .12

Lakota West will also celebrate with a special fireworks show after their home football game against Fairfield this evening. West is planning other festivities during basketball season to celebrate the anniversary.

The whole community is invited to come out and help Lakota East and Lakota West celebrate their 20th anniversary at tonight's football games.

## **New Podcast Features Lakota's Financial Communication Efforts through Latest Prospectus**

Lakota Treasurer Jenni Logan recently participated in a podcast all about the district's first financial prospectus. The publication, distributed to West Chester and Liberty residents and businesses last spring, was designed to share with our community an in-depth look at the district's finances in an easy to-understand format.

Besides sharing Lakota's strides to stabilize the district's financial picture, the report helps illustrate current spending priorities as well as ways the district is continuing to be fiscally efficient with its current resources.

"WE LOVE SCHOOLS" is a weekly podcast that highlights success stories in school communications campaigns. The program addresses the issues, obstacles and benefits of communicating with your community in today's all-access social media-driven world.

[Click here to listen to the Aug. 28 "Financial Communication" podcast.](#)

## **Learn More about Gifted Services at Gifted 101 Sept. 19**

Parents of K-12 students with gifted identification are invited to attend Gifted 101 on Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Lakota Central Office on Princeton Road.

Lakota West girls volleyball will be hosting Mason High School for the 11th annual "Volley for the Cure" event at Lakota West High School on Tuesday, Sept. 12. To date, Lakota West girls volleyball has raised **over \$100,000** for Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

In addition to exciting volleyball action, there will be games with prizes, split the pot, silent auctions, raffles, mystery boxes, giveaways, and a wonderful sampling of food and drink from local vendors. Matches begin with the freshman team playing at 4:30, J.V. at 5:30, a faculty "fun" match at 6:30, and varsity at 7:30 p.m.

The UC Health mammography van will be conveniently located in front of Lakota West from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. on the day of the event. Please call 513-584-PINK (2465) to schedule your mammogram (registration required).

Survivors and families of those who have lost loved ones due to breast cancer are invited to attend. If you or someone you know has been affected by breast cancer and would like to attend, please contact Kristin Henley at [kristin.henley@lakotaonline.com](mailto:kristin.henley@lakotaonline.com) for complimentary tickets and a free 'Volley for the Cure' t-shirt.



This session is presented by the Gifted Services Department and will cover the continuum of Gifted Services. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions about Gifted Services as well. Note that this session was offered last year and will have repeat information.

Plan to attend to find out more about the work of a Gifted Intervention Specialist and a Gifted Support Advisor and how they can work with your child. For questions, please contact Gifted Services at 513-644-1186 or [giftedservices@lakotaonline.com](mailto:giftedservices@lakotaonline.com).

## Photos of the Week



*Photos courtesy of Lifetouch*

## Lakota Ice Cream Social for New Families

As a way of welcoming the more than 2,000 new students and their families who joined the Lakota community this school year, the district hosted its annual ice cream social on Sept. 6. The event was held for the first time at the Union Centre Square, where families could enjoy ice cream, face painting, a photo booth and other games and activities. A group of Lakota East Jazz Band students provided live music and district staff attended to meet new families.

Pictured above, Lakota Director of Curriculum 7-12 Fran Morrison does face painting (left) while another new Lakota student enjoys an ice cream sundae, compliments of the catering services of Lakota's Child Nutrition department (right).

## Upcoming Events

### Event Spotlights

- Monday, September 11  
[Board of Education Meeting](#)  
at Lakota Central Office  
7 p.m.
- Monday, September 25  
[Board of Education Meeting](#)  
at Lakota Central Office  
7 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 26  
[Student Fanfare Event at Union Elementary \(Community Invited\)](#)  
9:10 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, September 28  
[Student Fanfare Event at Creekside ECS \(Community Invited\)](#)  
9:00 - 9:45 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 3  
[Barber Shop, Books & Boys](#)  
at X-Quisite Cutz  
6:00 p.m.

## Lakota In The News

### Community Coverage

#### Hamilton-Journal News

[Lakota schools step up to challenge U of Houston coach, donate to Harvey victims](#)

[Lakota's popular fanfare events return to encourage students](#)

#### Fox 19 - WXIX

[Lakota student takes hundreds of blankets to Texas](#)

[Lakota East football kicker helping kids with cancer](#)

## 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:

[Future Firebird Night at Lakota West Varsity Football Game - September 8](#)

[Lakota West Marching Band Mattress Sale - September 16](#)

[LEADS Fall Picnic at Keehner Park - September 10](#)

[Barber Shop, Books & Boys - Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 \(Boys Grades 1-6\)](#)

#### Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- Wednesday, October 4  
[Coffee Chat with the Superintendent](#)  
at Coffee Beans & Brew  
2 - 3 p.m.

[See Full Calendar](#)

[Adena Elementary Girl Scout Open House - September 13](#)

[Free Lakota Thunderbird Basketball Clinic - September 13 \(Girls Grades 1-3\)](#)

[Freedom Elementary Girl Scout Open House \(September 12\)](#)

[Garden Fest at Miami Hamilton Campus Conservatory - September 24](#)

[Great Miami Crew Rowing - Fall Season Info Meeting September 25](#)

[Lakota Shock Youth Basketball Winter Tryouts - September 16 \(Grades 1-6\)](#)

[Wizard of Oz Auditions for Performing Arts, Inc. at Edge Teen Center - September 9 \(all ages\)](#)

[Gold Medal Archery Fall Classes \(All ages\)](#)

[All Current E-Flyers](#)

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