

LAKEWOOD HIGH STUDENTS TAKE TOP AWARDS IN PTA REFLECTIONS CONTEST

Congratulations to four Lakewood High students whose artwork was honored at the state level in the PTA Reflections art recognition program! Special shout out to junior Edie Barcelona (pictured), who won an Award of Excellence, Ohio's highest honor, in the dance choreography category. Her piece has moved on to national judging.



Also earning recognition from the Ohio PTA, all in the literature category, were juniors Ashley Van Gunten, Olivia Diemert and Reagan Bratko. Ashley earned a second-place Award of Outstanding Achievement, Olivia Diemert earned an third-place Award of Merit and Reagan Bratko earned a 2nd Honorable Mention.

The Reflections program offers students from schools with active PTAs the opportunity to create works of art for fun and

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OUTSTANDING W. SHORE STUDENTS NAMED

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River recently hosted the 25th annual West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Student Awards at a weekly luncheon. Fourteen recipients were honored for their dedication, leadership, and accomplishments in their career-technical programs.

Each award recipient is au-

tomatically nominated for the "Career-Technical Student of the Year" award, which will be announced later in the school year at the annual Career Passport Assembly.

West Shore Career-Technical District encompasses the Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River, and Westlake school districts.

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RANGER WRESTLER AMONG STATE BEST



Junior Zayna Muntaser (at right) wrestled her way to third place in the Ohio State Wrestling Tournament March 10-12. Zayna, who was also Regional champ, was joined at the meet by junior Gillian Coulson. For more Ranger state qualifiers, see page 4.

DISTRICT HIRES GPD GROUP TO AID IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

The Lakewood City Schools has secured the services of the architectural firm GPD Group to conduct a facility study to assist in the assessment of the current use of District facilities and explore opportunities to maximize the use of those facilities

and resources. The study will include an assessment of existing conditions and use, a review of educational programming needs, a review of enrollment projections, and the facilitation of a Facility Study Task Force to provide feedback and develop

recommendations for facility improvements.

"As educational leaders, we have a responsibility to care for, protect, and maintain our facilities and buildings," said Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki. "Additionally, we have

the responsibility to periodically review the use of our facilities and the role each facility plays in helping us achieve our mission in ways that are financially responsible, sustainable, and provide the greatest opportunities for

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recognition. Students grades preschool-12 are encouraged to submit works in seven arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, visual arts and special artist. All entries must follow a chosen theme, which this year was "Show Your Voice!"

You can view Edie's dance piece by visiting our website at lakewoodcityschools.org and selecting the Reflections story under News & Announcements.

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The 2022-23 Outstanding Student Award recipients are:

- Automotive Technology: Avery Darroch
- Business Management: Eric Barber
- Community-Based Program, Gordon Food Service: Jayden Thompson
- Community-Based Program, Wyndham: Hunter Tate
- Construction Trades: Grant Ospelt
- Culinary Arts: Christian Reyes
- Early Childhood Education: Rebecca Frolo
- Electronic Engineering Technology: Tyler DiLoreto
- Health Careers: Say K-Pyu Moo
- Media Art & Design: Muriel Bourn
- Medical Office Management: Sophie Wilmot
- Networking & Cybersecurity: Victor Cottrell
- Engineering Technology/ Project Lead the Way: Alexa Colburn
- Sports & Exercise Science: Eli LaDue
- Theatre Arts: Grace Lamparyk

High School



STUDENTS' ART TO HANG IN GOVERNOR'S EXHIBIT

Congratulations to the five Lakewood High and West Shore Career-Tech students whose artwork was selected to be part of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition in Columbus. The work of Sophie Boyer (two pieces), Corey Johnson, Clare Morrissey, Mia Szymczyk and Lila Wright will hang in the exhibition at the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus during April and May.

Clare Morrissey's "Outside" earned a spot in the Governor's Youth Art Exhibit along with four other Lakewood school students. Judges chose 348 pieces for the exhibit from more than 8,000 entries

Sophia, Clare and Lila are students of Dayna Hansen and Corey and Mia are in Anne McQuay's Media Art & Design class in the West Shore Career-Tech District. Judges received more than 8,000 entries from high school students across the state. Regional competitions resulted in 1,300 pieces moving on to state judging. From those 1,300, the state-level judges selected 348 pieces to be part of the exhibition.

Middle School

HARDING POEMS PART OF NATIONAL EXHIBIT

A group poem by some Harding Middle School sixth graders in Kevin Spooner's class is on display at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., as part of the Dear Ukraine global community poem project. Student Leelu Baxter's individual poem also was selected to be in the exhibit. The students also read their poems at a Dear Ukraine reception on March 12 at Lakewood Public Library. The two poems in the exhibit are:

Advanced Social Studies poem:

I'm so far from knowing the stomachache
you get every time you scurry
from the gunfire.
From the blast of bombs ringing
in your ears.
From the ashes of the places you
once loved.
May you shower yourself with
memories
of all the times you've won, with
the hope you
won't forget the shine and
warmth of peace.

Leelu Baxter's poem:

I want you to know that through
the smoke
and the smog there is a blue sky,
that the scent of gunpowder and
fire
will be pushed away by your
mother's Shepherd's pie.
And although your father died at
war,
he's watching from above, smiling
at you.
And in the rubble of the town
square,
there is a flower. Yellow petals
blooming. Brightly.
A spark of hope. And you will
heal.
And there will be life.

Trouts in the Classroom: Our Vision of a Lakewood Grad at Work



In early March, students from Lakewood High's AP Environmental and Biology classes experienced a hands-on, real-world lesson when they traveled to the Emerald Necklace Marina in the Metroparks and released young rainbow trout fingerlings into the Rocky River. From there, the fingerlings will make their way to Lake Erie, grow and come back in the fall to spawn. Prior to the release, the students tested the water using skills learned in class to make sure it was safe to release the fish.

The trout eggs were given to the school by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The AP class raised them in a 60-gallon tank in the classroom until they were given permission by the ODNR to release them in March.

The release was made possible by the state

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Program, which provided an opportunity for our students to witness the growth of trout from the egg stage to the fingerling stage (2-4 in.)

Said teacher Rita Chahda-Gonzalez: "The exciting thing was seeing them take ownership of all the testing and monitoring, and most importantly the release of the baby trout into a state-designated lake or stream, each one to face the hazards and challenges of life in the wild."

The program provided Lakewood students valuable real-world experience and was a great reflection of our global citizen and collaboration competencies of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate!



BADAT NAMED NEW W. SHORE LEADER

Lakewood High House Principal Yakoob Badat has been named the next coordinator of career-technical education beginning Aug. 1. Badat will replace Bill DiMascio as the next leader of the West Shore Career-Technical District.

Badat has served as an LHS house principal since he joined the District in 2010. Before coming to Lakewood, Badat served as 9th grade principal at Cleveland's John Marshall High School, where he also served as an intervention specialist.

In addition to his work in secondary education, Badat brings a wealth of global experience to his position. He is a former Peace Corps volunteer and founder of the Nanze Children's Services in Malawi, Africa. Nanze's mission is to provide initiatives in education, water, and poverty reduction for Malawians.

NEW ELEMENTARY SPECIALS SCHEDULE TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITH 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

The District has announced that it will be making a change to the specials rotation at the elementary level next school year in order to provide a better balance of time with each special and to introduce two new specials that are important for 21st century learning.

The schedule was developed and put forth by a co-facilitated committee, led by the director of teaching and learning and a teacher, and comprised of a selection of teachers from each specialty area, classroom teachers and principals.

Currently, our elementary students have music class every other day all year, three grading

periods of physical education opposite music, and one nine-week period of art on non-music days. This schedule has been in place for almost 20 years and was the result of trying to add some art to the elementary school day when two physical education teachers retired at that time. Since then, the learning needs and expectations of our students have grown and evolved.

With technology so readily available, digital and informational literacy, internet safety, and computer skills have become more important. In addition, our economy is driven by quicker advancements and an ever-changing job market making design process

thinking especially important for our students and their futures.

These needs and others have carved away from our instructional time. This, combined with an interest in exploring the possibilities of a more equitable split of time with our current specials (music, art, and physical education), drove the decision to explore a new specials schedule with a committee.

The group explored what other districts offered or were looking to provide for their students. Parents were surveyed (88% of respondents favored a new schedule), ideas were collected, discussed, and prioritized, which ultimately led to a

recommendation to provide our students in kindergarten through fourth grade a five-day rotation of specials that will include: music, art, PE, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and library - information and digital literacy (taught by a certified teacher). Fifth grade students will still have two days of instrumental music along with art, physical education, and STEM.

The change will not cause any job loss. The District will hire additional staff to meet the needs of the new schedule. More detailed information about the transition including a list of FAQs can be found on the District website at lakewoodcityschools.org.

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WINTER ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

Basketball: Delaney Garcia, Luke Vanucci (1st Team); Sydney Hampton, Samantha Hudak, Drew Jablonowski, Brayden Volcansek (2nd Team); Oseid Albadarin, Ava Carroll, Annette Doren (Honorable Mention)

Bowling: Justin Lacquement (1st Team); Katie Arth, Joseph Trzaska (2nd Team); Dakota Ford, Scarlett Wankowski (Honorable Mention)

Hockey: Eli LaDue, (1st Team);



Jude and Ronan Johnson (2nd Team); Tanner Constantine (Honorable Mention)
Congratulations to all!

RANGER STATE QUALIFIERS

Besides our two girl wrestlers, eight Ranger athletes qualified to compete at their sport's highest level at the Division 1 Indoor State Track & Field Meet.

Congratulations to Luka Bork, Lilly Burns, Charieon Dogley, Kaydence Dogley, McKenna Hunt, Aniya Johnson, Aniya Symons and Mallory Zavatchen!

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our students' growth."

Over the coming months, updates on the progress of this process will be posted regularly on the District website. The District will also be hosting a series of community engagement events and opportunities for feedback later this spring.

"The Lakewood City Schools is fortunate to have a long history of support and partnership with the community," said Board of Education President Michael J. Callahan.

"The community has supported the District's mission of developing responsible citizens who are critical and creative thinkers, committed to lifelong learning, invested in a diverse society, and

prepared for technological and global opportunities through many ways, including the building of excellent educational and athletic facilities for our students and community members."

The results of the facility study and work of the Facility Study Task Force, which has met twice already and will continue to meet monthly, may result in some recommendations being made by the end of the summer and presented to the Board of Education for further consideration.

The District is hopeful that the outcomes of this study will provide valuable information and recommendations that can help guide the District in its planning for the future use of its facilities.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT COMPARTMENT: IT'S YOUR PLAY

With the weather fighting to get warmer, we have set our sights on summer programming. Our spring/summer booklet was posted online the week of April 3 with the hard copy hitting doorsteps the first half of this month. There are plenty of activities to choose from. Some important registration dates to note:

April 14 - Resident registration opens for programs (non-resident

one week later).

May 2 - Pool pass registration opens.

May 16 - Resident registration for swim lessons open (non-resident one week later).

Registration is open for our summer camps (Kids Connection, Safety Town, Camp Can Do/S.T.O.P.) and sports camps (boys/girls basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, boys/girls soccer,

football, softball, running/track), which were in our winter booklet released in late December.

During the Board of Education meeting on April 3, the Community Recreation & Education Department's annual report was delivered to recap 2022 as well as current and future planning. If you missed our presentation, it can be viewed in the meeting recording on the District website.

Finally, it's almost here! The annual Lakewood Ranger Purple and Gold Classic will take place at Lakewood High in the main gym on Saturday, April 22. The first game tips off at 8:30 am. Come see our 5th grade basketball teams compete for the Commissioner's Cup. For more information on all of our offerings, check out our website at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.