

Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

Superintendent's Message: Bond refinancing

With our weather finally warming up and the days getting longer, spring has arrived. We invite you to join us for an athletic event at the middle school or high school, the spring play (May 3-4), or a spring concert.



Dr. Erin Murphy,
Superintendent

At the beginning of March, the district was able to finalize the refinancing of \$30.5 million in bonds from 2014 for the construction of Lakewood High School. This will save our community \$4.6 million in interest payments over the next nine years.

Due to this refinancing, should voters approve the replacement EP&O levy on April 23, there will be no increase to the estimated current tax rate.

In February, the proposed replacement Educational Programs and Operations levy was short of passing by 115 votes. The Capital Improvements and Safety Levy was short of passing by 80 votes. Due to the EP&O levy's significance (14% of the general budget) and the need to create staffing and program plans for next year, the school board placed both of these measures on the April 23 ballot.

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EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK



Each day, classified staff across our district diligently work with a focus on each student being fully supported and having access to what they need to grow, learn, and thrive. Thank you to our education support professionals!

Know someone who represents the Heart of Lakewood?



The Lakewood School District and Board of Directors is seeking nominations for the Heart of Lakewood Community Service Award. The award, which will be presented at the June 5 Board meeting, recognizes outstanding community service to the Lakewood community made by a student, alumni, staff or community member.

Eligible activities include initiating a community project, serving as an inspiration in the community, or providing leadership in a community-based endeavor.

Nominations are due by May 22. Learn more about this award and download a nomination form: <https://bit.ly/35X2Dyl>.




**VOTE BY
APRIL 23**

**Have a question
about the levies?
We have answers!**

Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy recorded a video with teacher and Lakewood Coaches Association President Dan Teeter with answers to questions about the levies on the April 23 ballot. Watch at www.lwsd.wednet.edu/levies or scan the QR code above.



Still have questions? Contact us at 360-652-4500.



Countdown to Kindergarten!

Do you have a child who will be 5 by August 31? It's time to register for kindergarten at your child's school! See our website for more. And mark your calendar for our **May 16** Kindergarten Open Houses.



LAKWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"A small district
going big places"*

FIND US ON



Dr. Murphy: Levies on the ballot Apr. 23

Continued from front

While sharing information about the election, the district has also considered reductions should the EP&O measure not pass — resulting in cuts of at least \$4 million from the 2024-25 budget.

This reduction would impact all aspects of our district, especially those that receive no state funding, such as athletics and activities, which are supported by the levy.

On March 7, the district held a budget reduction community conversation. There were 73 attendees who engaged in discussions and made recommendations. It was clear that there are no easy answers. You can review the recommendations from the community on our website.

While the possibility of significantly altering the educational opportunities our students experience is a possibility, I remain steadfast in my optimism that we will not reach that point.

In addition, I know that whatever the outcome of the April election, we are a strong community and will continue to work together in support of our students.

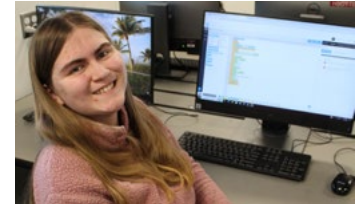
All my best,



In Core Plus Construction at LHS, students learn construction, teamwork and communication.

Students sample career options in CTE classes

Who creates those websites you use on a daily basis? Students in the web design class at Lakewood High School are building an entire website and will have marketable skills for after they graduate.



Students in the web design class at LHS learn HTML and CSS skills as well as problem-solving skills.

Students have multiple Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes to choose from, including marketing, video production, computer science, agriscience, and applied STEM.

CTE classes prepare students to work in a wide range of high-wage and high-demand industries and occupations.

LHS music groups receive top honors

Lakewood High School received a long list of honors during the DeMiero and Commencement Bay jazz festivals.

One top honor went to senior Leo Sandoval, who sings and plays bass. As the winner of the 2024 Dee Daniels Vocal Jazz Scholarship, Sandoval performed in the main concert. The Swingbeat jazz choir also came home with an astounding eight solo awards.

The distinguished Tenuto Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Katy Trapp, the high school's band and choir director of 16 years.

At Regionals in March, the Lakewood Concert Band, Concert Choir and Swingbeat all received Superior ratings.



Above: At Commencement Bay Jazz Festival, Swingbeat jazz choir was awarded the overall grand champion award for best vocal group, competing against larger schools. The 11th Avenue jazz band took second place in its division and received two solo awards in the preliminary round. Swingbeat had an unprecedented seven solo awards in the preliminary round.

Above Left: Katy Trapp receives Tenuto teaching award.

SENIORS SIGN TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS

Lakewood High School athletes signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the college level. Congratulations to Julie Chrisman, Avery Kleinsasser, Amelia Koon, R.J. Lydon,



Wyatt Pevny, Krystle Raymond, Kiana Schroeder, Gabe Seagraves, Drew Talley, and EJ Wise!

6 WRESTLERS GO TO STATE

Lakewood had a strong showing at state this year. Three wrestlers placed at the WIAA State Mat Classic XXXV.



VFW TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Teachers and coaches Candy Skagrud (LMS) and Jeff Sowards (LHS) were honored by VFW District 1 (Snohomish County) with Teacher of the Year awards, which recognize teachers who promote civic responsibility.



NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

In accordance with RCW49.60, the Lakewood School District does not discriminate in employment and schools. The Lakewood School District provides Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, handicap/disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, use of a trained dog to guide or service animal by a person with a disability, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and designated youth groups. The district complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations to include, but not limited to, Title IX, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, RCW 49.60 "The Law Against Discrimination," and RCW 28A.640 "Sex Equity," and covers, but is not limited to, all district programs, courses, activities, including extracurricular activities, services, access to facilities, etc. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures should be directed to Lakewood School District, 17110 16th Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98271. Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Officer, Timothy Haines, 360-652-4500, thaines@lwsd.wednet.edu or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Lissan Wipfli, 360-652-4500, lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu.