

# Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

## Superintendent's Message: Giving a helping hand

It is difficult to believe that we are approaching the midpoint of the school year. We are grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our students and staff, and for the support of our families and community.



**Dr. Erin Murphy,**  
Superintendent

### Holiday Helpers

In December, members of our school community (students, staff and families) worked to put together holiday packages for students and families in our community who are experiencing homelessness as part of our Holiday Helpers program. Each child received warm clothes and a game to play with their family. This program is a tradition in our district, and we are grateful for the generosity of our schools and the businesses in our community who came together to make this program possible.

### School Board Changes

The commitment of service within our community is also evident in the countless hours that our school board directors dedicate to volunteering to lead Lakewood

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*Executive Director of Special Education Lissan Wipfli helped preschool students count backward from 10 before Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy cut the ribbon with School Board Directors Leah Tocco and Dana Krueger. Lakewood Elementary Principal Kristin Cortés recognized the School Board, district leaders, preschool teachers and retired Executive Director of Operations and Learning Support Services Dale Leach who helped to envision the playground.*

## Just their size: Preschool playground opens at LES

Preschool students didn't need to be told twice when it was time for them to play on their new playground at Lakewood Elementary School on Dec. 11. The students smiled gleefully and ran toward the red firetruck after the ribbon was cut.

The playground has three main structures – sized just right for children ages 3 to 5.

Surrounding the artificial grass is a miniature track for tricycles and other toys that help students develop motor skills by building strength, coordination and balance.

The preschool playground was funded with federal ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds.

### LEARN ABOUT THE LEVIES ON YOUR FEB. 13 BALLOT

You are invited to learn more about the Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy and the Capital Improvements and Safety Levy during an information session:



**2024 Levies**

- Jan. 9: Lakewood/ Smokey Point Library, 4:30-5 p.m.
- Jan. 11: Webinar on Zoom, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 19: Lakewood High School at 5 p.m.
- Jan. 23: Starbucks at 4:30 p.m.

### LEARN ABOUT DRIVING A BUS

Join Lakewood Transportation for an orientation and meet & greet to learn what it is like to be a school bus driver during the event on Jan. 10 from 5-6 p.m. at Lakewood Support Services, 16830 19th Drive NE.



**LAKWOOD**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*“A small district going big places”*

FIND US ON





*Newly elected School Board Director Dawn Taylor takes the oath of office on Dec. 6.*

## Dr. Murphy: Updated Guide to the Budget

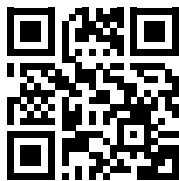
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School District. With the November election, we had the opportunity to thank Leaha Boser, whose time on the board came to a close. The board recognized her dedication to our district – especially to the health and well-being of students and staff.

On December 6, three board members took their oath of office: Leah Tocco and Dana Krueger were re-elected to new terms on the board, and our newest board member, Dawn Taylor, was inducted. We are truly grateful for each of our board directors and look forward to celebrating this team during School Board Appreciation Month in January.

### Citizen's Guide to the Budget

As a district, we continue to work diligently to be strong stewards of taxpayer dollars and we are grateful for the support of our community. In November, we updated the Citizen's Guide to the Budget for the 2023-24 school year. We hope this document will aid in creating greater transparency surrounding all aspects of district finances. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or James Peckham, Executive Director of Finance, at [jpeckham@lwsd.wednet.edu](mailto:jpeckham@lwsd.wednet.edu).



**Citizen's Guide to the Budget**

Wishing you and your family a joyous and relaxing holiday season, and a wonderful start to 2024.

All my best,

## Holiday Helpers serve local families

We are grateful for the generosity of our staff, students, families and community! The Holiday Helpers program served 181 students this year who are experiencing homelessness.

Employees from the Snohomish County PUD Stanwood office went shopping for nine Lakewood students and dropped off coats, books, shoes, and PJs.

A donation from Astound Broadband provided gift cards for groceries. Toy drives were organized by Coastal Community Bank, Apex Performance and Fabrication, Jamestown Saloon, Marysville



*Lakewood High School jazz students perform at Windsor Square Senior Home on Dec. 11. Students visited with residents after the performance and gave them holiday cards.*



*Setting up for Holiday Helpers at Linc Northwest.*

Food Bank, and Linc Northwest. Thank you to everyone who partnered with us to serve our families.

### LHS Jazz performs for seniors

"Swingbeat" and "11th Avenue" performed a holiday show for the residents of Windsor Square Senior Home.

### LMS music performs at Vintage

Lakewood Middle School musicians took time out of their Friday evening to perform for seniors at Vintage Apartments in Lakewood. The students played and sang holiday favorites to the delight of the audience.



*Students use advanced scientific methods to look for clues and analyze evidence in the College in the High School Forensics class taught by Mike Fellows.*

*Other College in the High School courses at LHS: English 101, English 111, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Spanish III, Spanish IV, Honors U.S. History, Honors Government, Chemistry, Physics, Advanced Biology/Forensics, and Ocean/Marine Biology.*

## Dual-credit classes bring college to LHS

Motivated high school students have options when it comes to earning college credit. One option, College in the High School, is a cooperative program between Lakewood and Everett Community College. Courses are taught by Lakewood teachers who work closely with EvCC faculty mentors to ensure the work the students perform in the high school course is equivalent to a similar course taught on campus.



*Students test the properties of different chemicals to identify them during chemistry.*

**NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:**

In accordance with RCW 49.60, 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](mailto:thaines@lwsd.wednet.edu) or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Lissan Wipfli, 360-652-4500, [lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu](mailto:lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu).