

Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

Happy Homecoming!

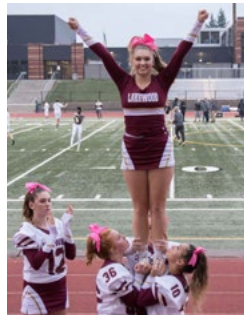
Week of celebration brings out Cougar spirit and pride



"Go, Cougars! We love Lakewood!" Elementary students were ready with signs for the high school students who gave high-fives during the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 20. Students decorated floats with the theme of Alice in Wonderland. Leadership students selected Keith Krueger for Grand Marshal. They wrote, "Krueger is a dedicated softball coach and substitute teacher, always showing his trademark positivity and support."



Elementary students show spirit!



Cheer brings their energy



Cougar Marching Band has the beat.



Lakewood Middle School Principal Amanda Cote, right, shows members of the Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee the 220-student cafeteria.

CFAC presents recommendations

Short-term and long-term facilities needs identified

The Lakewood Middle School cafeteria capacity is just slightly larger than this year's sixth grade class, Principal Amanda Cote told parents and community members who were touring the school as volunteers on the Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee.

To make sure all 610 students get a chance to eat, lunches are staggered from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

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Superintendent's Message: Working and celebrating as a community

The start of the school year has been strong in Lakewood School District. I have been impressed by the engagement and dedication to learning demonstrated by our students and the work of our staff as they adjust instruction to meet the learning needs of each student.

Each fall, there are key traditions we



Dr. Erin Murphy, Superintendent

celebrate. This year's Homecoming was one to remember. Our Lakewood High School students started the week with the announcement of Homecoming royalty, and spent the week

enjoying spirit days and walking the halls decorated by each class, which aligned with the theme of Alice in Wonderland.

On October 20, our district came together for the annual Homecoming parade, with elementary and middle

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LAKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A small district going big places"

FIND US ON



Dr. Murphy: Traditions help set us apart

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school students from across the district lining the parade route as our high school students and class floats passed by.

Traditions such as this and Halloween Hi-Jinx, a PTA-sponsored carnival and trunk-or-treat event returning this year, are perfect examples of the strong community that sets our district apart and makes Lakewood special.

Citizens' Facilities Advisory

In addition to the great work occurring within our schools, volunteer members of our Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) recently presented recommendations for future capital facility needs to the School Board.

This group spent many hours, since February, exploring needs for facility preservation and maintenance. In addition, CFAC identified critical projects for safety and security.

I encourage you to review these recommendations, which can be found using the QR code at right.

As a community, the strong connections present between our students, staff, families, and community members are key elements of what makes Lakewood a special place to learn and to live.

As we celebrate history through these traditions, we also have the opportunity look forward together and plan for the bright future ahead.

All my best, *Erin*

Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee report to School Board

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Between February and September 2023, the Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee met to develop short- and long-term recommendations for capital improvements. On Oct. 4, members of the committee presented their findings to the School Board.

Near-Term Needs

As part of the committee's Study and Survey, a team of architects and engineers toured the district's schools in the spring and compiled their findings in the state schools building condition database. (See results using QR code.)

Because middle school students move around to different buildings throughout the day – and not every building has restrooms – it hasn't been practical to lock exterior doors during school hours.

To address this and other safety and security needs, CFAC recommended: Access control systems with lock-down functionality at all schools; fencing at LMS and ECE; fire alarm system replacement at LMS and ECE.

Energy efficiency was also listed as a near-term need. To



Lakewood Elementary School

comply with updated efficiency standards, CFAC recommended replacing fluorescent lights with energy-efficient LEDs at Cougar Creek and English Crossing elementaries.



CFAC report

Lakewood Elementary

In 1958, the building now called Lakewood Elementary was built with eight classrooms. Since then, multiple additions, plus nine portable classrooms, have increased capacity for the 470 students who now attend (323 in permanent classrooms and 147 in portable classrooms).

Growth hasn't come without challenges. One class of fifth graders is temporarily utilizing the library as a classroom. In addition, the school does not have a music classroom. So, students remain in their classrooms and specialist teachers come to them.

"Big Move" Solutions

CFAC quickly realized that future growth and capacity

"I am truly grateful for the dedication of the members of CFAC and their creation of both short-term and longer-term master plan needs for our district."

— Dr. Erin Murphy, Superintendent



LES art specialist Carly Greenland moves between classrooms. Students also have music in their classrooms since there isn't enough space for a music classroom at the school.

were top priorities. This was reinforced by feedback from a community survey.

A demographer's report estimated that enrollment will increase 13% in the next 10 years. Some "big move" (longer-term) solutions studied by the committee included:

- Move Lakewood Elementary to Lakewood Middle School for additional capacity.
- Build a new, larger middle school near the existing site.
- Convert the existing Lakewood Elementary to a District Administration building and Early Learning Center.

See the full presentation by scanning the QR code above.

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT? CONTACT CHILD FIND

Child Find seeks to locate, evaluate, and identify children up to 21 years of age with suspected disabilities in need of special education services.

Have concerns about your child's progress? For children not yet in school, or school-age children enrolled in a private or home-based school program, please call 360-652-4500.

For school-age children currently enrolled, please contact your school psychologist.

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, 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 Acts, 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.