

Friends & Neighbors Newsletter



Dr. Erin Murphy welcomed teachers and support staff on Aug. 29. She emphasized the power of interconnectedness in the Lakewood community — like giant redwood trees, which have shallow but widespread root systems that help the network of trees weather strong winds and floods together. Inset photo: Dr. Murphy listens to teachers at a professional development session at Cougar Creek Elementary.

Welcome, Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy!

A Message from the Superintendent: Building a strong foundation

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am honored to serve as the new superintendent in the Lakewood School District. Our district is committed to creating an engaging educational experience, centered on supporting every student’s academic, social, and emotional growth. I firmly believe that the development of strong relationships with our students, their families, and our community, forms the foundation from which we build.



Dr. Erin Murphy, Superintendent

While strong relationships have many attributes, open and transparent communication and the opportunity to connect and get to know one another through

CHATS WITH ERIN

Dr. Murphy is hosting public listening sessions. Please bring your thoughts and ideas!

- Oct. 10: Starbucks (17101 27th Ave. N.E.), 4-5 p.m.
- Oct. 12: Lakewood/Smokey Point Library, 4:15-5 p.m.
- Oct. 17: Focus Group via Zoom: 11 a.m.-noon (link on website)
- Oct. 25: Focus Group via Zoom: 5:30-6:30 p.m. (link on website)
- Oct. 27, Stilly Valley Center, 10:15am

informal conversations are two elements often at the core.

As a new district and community member (I recently moved into our home down

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Are you 60+? We appreciate you!

As a token of our appreciation, the Classic Cougar membership card entitles residents who live in our district, 60 years and older, to free admission for most “home” athletic and scholastic events offered by Lakewood School District.



Classic Cougar

Lifetime membership is offered in appreciation for the support senior citizens provide Lakewood schools.

The card cannot be used for athletic playoff games or state-sponsored athletic events. To receive a Classic Cougar Club card, complete the application on our website and mail it in. Or, stop by the district office to complete an application: 17110 16th Dr. N.E., Marysville, WA 98271. <https://bit.ly/3rCsYJx>

FALL CALENDAR

October 20: Homecoming Football Game, 7 p.m.

October 26-28 and November 2 and 4: LHS Drama presents: “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”

November 7: LHS Winter Concert, 7 p.m.



LAKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

“A small district going big places”

FIND US ON



SUMMER ACADEMY: LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Learning is an adventure! During the three weeks of Lakewood Summer Academy, about 200 students were engaged in learning that aligned with interests such as baking, art, music and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). In addition, some high school students earned academic credit with classes related to their graduation pathway. The program was funded by federal ESSER funds. All students had transportation provided and the opportunity to enjoy breakfast and lunch together as part of the district's participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's summer meals program. The meals program was available to all children in our community four days a week. We are grateful to the staff involved with Summer Academy and meals.

CITIZENS' FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Community and staff members have been hard at work since February on our Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC). This group of 12 parents and community members has explored (1) district enrollment projections, (2) facility maintenance and preservation needs, (3) potential updates for increased safety and security, and (4) accommodations for increasing enrollment.



CFAC findings

A presentation of CFAC's initial findings was shared with the School Board during an August 23 study session (<https://bit.ly/cfac2023>). The Board will hear the committee's final facilities recommendations on October 4. Thank you, CFAC volunteers!

Superintendent's Message: Citizen's Guide to the Budget

Continued from front

the road), the importance of listening to and learning from our staff, students, families, and members of our community cannot be understated. In August, I started my listening tour and am grateful to the 46 individuals who have already given graciously of their time for me to interview them.

I look forward to visiting with groups of staff, students, families and our community this fall.

From this process, I plan to share the themes that emerge regarding our strengths, areas for improvement or growth, and perceptions on the greatest challenges or opportunities our district will face in the next 3 to 5 years. This information – along with a review of district data – will support the development of plans for the months and years to come. I truly look forward to learning from you and developing strong relationships as we partner together in support of our students.

Summer Activities

Our maintenance, grounds, and custodial teams worked tirelessly over the summer to power wash, beautify our grounds, and complete countless maintenance projects. We are truly grateful for their dedication and commitment.

Also this summer, about 200 Lakewood students participated in our three-week Summer Academy. (See photos above.)

Citizen's Guide to the Budget

Our District has been, and continues to be, dedicated to being strong stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensuring financial transparency to our community. With open lines of communication supporting both clarity and the development of trust, our staff spent time over the summer creating the Lakewood School District Citizen's Guide to the Budget (www.lwsd.wednet.edu/budget). Within the guide, you will find detailed information about school finance in the state of Washington, enrollment history for our district,



Dr. Murphy chats with a kindergartner on his first day. "While the school year has just begun, I have been amazed by the high levels of engagement in learning, supportive and welcoming interactions, and excitement present in our students and staff across all our schools." — Dr. Murphy

types of district revenues and expenditures, and information on taxpayer-approved funding (i.e., levies and bonds).

Please feel free to reach out with questions about the guide or district finances.

All my best,

Erin



Citizen's Guide to the Budget

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 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 Wipflr, 360-652-4500, lwipflr@lwsd.wednet.edu.