

Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

Search begins for a new superintendent

It is with deep appreciation for the Lakewood community that I announced my resignation as superintendent effective at the end of this school year.

After much personal reflection, I have come to realize that I need to step away from my current role in order to rebuild the sense of wholeness that has defined my life. The process that lies ahead includes exploring new possibilities for my professional future—though I have no plans at this point. I am thankful for the school board’s understanding and support of my decision.



Scott Peacock,
Superintendent

It has been a true privilege to serve you. We moved forward together through some of the greatest challenges our school district has ever faced. Throughout, we have shown the true heart of Lakewood. We have looked to one another in the face of challenges

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Child’s play is part of learning at Inclusive Transitional Kindergarten

The first day of kindergarten came early for some 4- and 5-year-olds. Students in Becca Boatwright’s Inclusive Transitional Kindergarten (ITK) class are learning how to be a good friend and how to wait their turn. They are also learning the foundational skills for literacy and math they will need for Kindergarten in the fall.

Lakewood Elementary School welcomed its first class of ITK students with the help of a state grant on January 31. The full-day program is designed for students who would otherwise not have access to a high-quality early-learning experience. “It has been so rewarding to see how eager our young students are to be at school and learn,” Boatwright said.

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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Will your child be 5 by August 31, 2023? It’s time to register for kindergarten! Registration begins Wednesday, March 8 at your child’s school. Not sure what school your child will attend? Call us at 360-652-4500 or learn more at www.lwsd.wednet.edu/register.



LAKWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

“A small district going big places”

FIND US ON



HELP LAKEWOOD PLAN FOR GROWTH

Are you available two Tuesdays per month from 6-8 p.m.? LWSD is looking for members of our community to

volunteer to serve on the Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee until September. Apply at lwsd.wednet.edu.

Inclusive Transitional Kindergarten

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In providing the grant, the state determined that there are not enough preschool programs in our service area to accommodate all the preschoolers who live in our district. As part of the grant, Lakewood School District is partnering with other early learning centers to offer training and tours to increase preschool capacity for the benefit of our community.

Participation in ITK provides students with the jump start they need for a successful kindergarten entry. A recent study from the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction found that students who were kindergarten-ready in literacy and in math were more than 1.5 times as likely to meet the proficiency

standards on the third grade English language arts and math assessments. In fall 2022, kindergarten students who had participated in ITK outperformed their peers during assessments.

Children can qualify for ITK regardless of their family's income and must live in Lakewood School District. Families fill out an application that identifies students who need additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten. We are excited to welcome these young learners," said LES Principal Kristin Cortés. "The addition of this program, alongside our established ECEAP and Developmental Preschool programs, brings an added strength to our robust early learning programs."

CHEER BRINGS HOME STATE TROPHY



Lakewood High School Cheer traveled to Battle Ground High School Feb. 3-4 to compete in the Washington State Cheerleading Championships. They came home as 1A/2A Medium Game Day state champions!



The Lakewood Middle School varsity boys basketball team huddles during a game in December. This year, sixth graders have the option to play team sports. Previously, sixth graders could only participate in individual sports.

Slam dunk! More sports for 6th grade

Soccer, basketball and volleyball are available to sixth graders this year for the first time at Lakewood Middle School. Sixth graders were already participating in cross country, wrestling and track & field. The decision to allow sixth graders to participate in team sports was made last year by Cascade Middle School League directors.

Interest has been high, with enough students last season for three volleyball teams and three boys basketball teams. This season, there are three girls basketball teams.

Lakewood extended participation to sixth graders with funding from the voter-approved Educational Programs & Operations levy,



Lakewood Middle School varsity girls soccer players celebrate a goal during a game in December.

which is used to fund athletics and extracurricular activities.

LMS Athletic Director Jim Barth said he is pleased with the decision because it allows sixth graders to participate more fully in their school community. "It makes sense with our district focus on belonging," he said.

Superintendent Scott Peacock

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and opportunities, drawing strength from the knowledge that, despite our differences, we will always be friends and neighbors. I am grateful that you have given me the gift of being part of this community.

I look forward to continuing the great work that we have underway in our district between now and the end of the year. Thank you for your support and partnership.

Editor's Note: Answer a short survey to help find Lakewood's next superintendent. Go to: www.lwsd.wednet.edu.

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

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