

Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

Students take the limelight for Cougar News

“Make it a day Lakewood; whether it’s good, bad or great, it’s all up to you!”

Shouting “Quiet on set!” may not be necessary in the modest recording studio at Lakewood High School.

Filled with an anchor desk, two chairs and special lighting in front of a bright-green wall, student anchors study their lines while waiting for “Lights, camera, action.”

The daily edition of “Cougar News in the Afternoon” opens with a snappy tune as black-and-white images of the school roll across the screen. The film evolves into full color, indicating the show is about to begin. American Sign Language students help lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

After reporting on classmates’ accomplishments and other school news, episodes conclude with the same inspiration: “Make it a day Lakewood; whether it’s good, bad or great, it’s all up to you!” That closing was first used in 2018 by Josh Lizarraga, a video student at the time. “He said it one day in class and I thought it was great. It has been our sign-

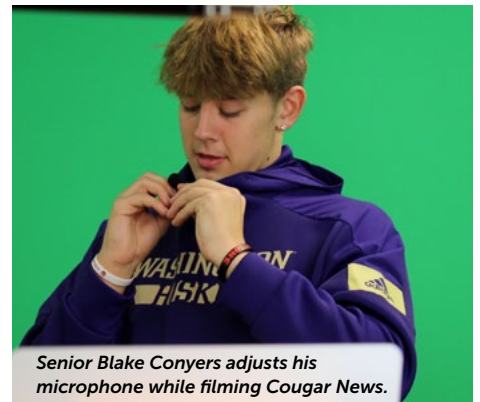


Senior Kaci Smith reads the news while filming an episode of “Cougar News in the Afternoon.”

off ever since,” said teacher Chris Walster.

Video Foundations offers students a “real world” setting where they learn by doing, Walster said. Students operate cameras, digital editing software, audio equipment and lighting. They learn to gather information from a variety of sources, write a script and edit the video to the allotted time. Teachers play the video during fifth period.

Continued on back



Senior Blake Conyers adjusts his microphone while filming Cougar News.



School Levy News

Thanks to voters, the school operations levy will be reinstated in the spring of 2022, returning vital local funding to Lakewood schools. The collection rate will actually be lower than expected! The collection rate will be \$1.75 per \$1,000 of assessed property value instead of the estimated rate of \$1.80 presented to voters in April.



LAKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Sharing news from our local schools that every community member should know.”

FIND US ON



Cougar News: Teacher retiring after 40 years

Continued from front

LHS seniors Kaci Smith, Elinor Seth, Jayden Riley and Blake Conyers bravely volunteered to anchor this year. (Students are permitted to briefly remove their masks during their reports.)

"I'm pretty comfortable in front of people," said Smith. She started anchoring the show last year. It was familiar to her as she took the video class in 9th and 10th grade.

Smith says she loves being back on campus full-time this year. "I love seeing everyone," she explained. Her joy translates to an engaging on-screen persona that resonates with her viewers.

Riley admitted to being a bit nervous at first with the sports anchor duties he shares with Conyers. "I didn't have much experience in front of the camera," he explained. "It has become a lot more fun as time has gone on."

"It's a wrap" for Walster in June. He plans to retire after 40 years of teaching and coaching — the last 37 of those years in Lakewood schools. "It is good for him, but it is sad for our school," Riley said. "He does such a good job with video production."

TECHNOLOGY SPOTLIGHT



Lakewood Middle School teacher Brandon Stott shows sixth grader Alana Villafan how to use a district computer to complete her Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). The adaptive test adjusts to a student's ability. Future questions are based on previous answers. An adaptive test gives a more precise estimate of a student's ability than a paper/pencil test.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon"

December 2-4
6:30 p.m. | \$5-\$10
Lakewood High School

*"LHS Music Presents:
A Winter Dream"*

December 8
7 p.m. | FREE
Lakewood High School

* Masks are REQUIRED for all spectators at indoor events. We also HIGHLY encourage masks at any outdoor event.

School Board recognized as Board of Distinction



Lakewood's School Board: Steven Larson, Jahna Smith, Leah Boser, Catherine "Sandy" Gotts, Superintendent Scott Peacock and Leah Tocco. "Despite historic challenges this year, school boards displayed tremendous leadership in bringing students back to in-person learning safely and creatively," said WSSDA Director of Leadership Development Tricia Lubach.

The Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) has named the Lakewood School Board a 2021 Board of Distinction. The honor reflects the Board's commitment to closing opportunity gaps through visionary leadership.

The LWSD Board is one of 34 school boards around the state recognized in November at the WSSDA 2021 Annual Conference.

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, Daniel Lee, 360-652-4500, dlee@lwsd.wednet.edu or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Amie Verellen-Grubbs, 360-652-4500, averellen-grubbs@lwsd.wednet.edu.