

# Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

## Calendar of Events

Homecoming Week  
*Sept. 27th–Oct. 1st*

Homecoming  
Football Game  
*Oct. 1st @ 7:00 PM*

Hole in the Wall  
Cross Country  
*Oct. 9th @ 9:00 AM*

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

## Back to School: Creating a Community of “Belonging”

Lakewood schools kicked off this year celebrating the reunion of our school communities by being “Better Together.” On campus learning is underway for more than 2,500 PreK–12 students. Virtual learning options through the district’s Online Academy Edgenuity continue for about 100+ students and their families preferring that instruction model.

No matter which option was chosen, during the first days of school we focused on building a powerful sense of community and belonging. We took the opportunity to establish an atmosphere in our classrooms and lunchrooms, on our buses and through activities and athletics to ensure that each student and staff member is seen and valued by the other people sharing those spaces with them. We know that each student, staff member and family bring a distinct set of cultural and social experiences to school every day. These gifts make them who they are and provide the basis for meaningful social and learning relationships.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children’s emotional and behavioral health challenges were of growing concern even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Addressing these challenges was part of each school district’s Student Academic and Well-being Recovery Plan. State officials required this plan before schools could return to in-person learning. Stanford University assistant professor Gregory Walton suggests humans “interests, motivation, health and happiness” are connected to the “feeling that we belong to a greater community that may share common interests and aspirations”. Research also suggests that feeling excluded negatively impacts academic and social success. **Continue reading (scan QR code with your phone) or visit our website: <https://bit.ly/2W4DwoM>**



From left to right: Isabella Bokony, Camila Golovin, and Haley Callan



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



# New Technology Provides Huge Benefit to Students

Local Technology Levies provide many tools to prepare Lakewood's students for K-12 academic achievement and for success on the path they choose after high school graduation.

Continued support from the community through renewing of local dollars for technology has had a profound impact on student academic success. Before technology levies, classroom technology was limited. Overhead projectors with rolls of plastic sheeting and felt pens were classroom standards. Students demonstrated their learning on the pages of expensive paperback workbooks to supplement with their printed, dense textbooks. Each year, these pieces had to be replaced for the next set of learners. This made learning cumbersome for students to haul around and for teachers to collect and grade.

Local voters approved the current Technology Levy in August of 2020. It expires at the end of December 2022. Local voters would need to renew their support to continue the local student benefit of Technology Levy dollars.



Wooden sculptures created by students using laser cutters. 3D printers are also a big hit! A true example of bridging the gap between science and art.

– Ron Detrick's Class

The current 2-year levy has provided teachers with personal technology devices and E-tools to better support students. Presentation stations are now a staple in each classroom. This technology allows greater access to a wider range of resources to meet each student's needs. During parent-teacher conferences, staff may use the stations to demonstrate to families what their children have been learning and show visual examples of the child's work. Staff are also able to review student data together on these devices and quickly identify next steps and create plans based on real-time learning. **Continue reading (scan QR code with your phone) or visit our website: <https://bit.ly/39ua3aA>**



# Now Hiring

[LWSD.WEDNET.EDU/JOBS](https://www.lwsd.wednet.edu/jobs)

If you are interested in working for Lakewood School District, please check our job board regularly. We have several paraeducator openings and are always accepting applications for bus drivers, secretarial and food service subs. If you have a bachelor's degree and would like to be a substitute teacher, we are accepting applications for those as well.

## New math curriculum (Grades 6–12)

Math does not change year after year. However, the materials to teach math have evolved by leaps and bounds in recent history.

Lakewood School District students in grades 6-12 are benefiting from those changes with new math materials this year. Teachers from Lakewood High and Lakewood Middle schools started exploring options in 2019. The group of eight reflected on the math practices currently taught identifying strengths and weaknesses. They identified themes from that work and then searched for materials reflecting those shared priorities and values.

After investigating many options, LearnZillion Illustrated Mathematics was selected and approved by Lakewood's School Board. The new curriculum cost \$100,739.72 and those funds were allocated from the district's state revenue. **Continue reading (scan QR code with your phone) or visit our website: <https://bit.ly/3hRjsxy>**



*LearnZillion Illustrative Mathematics student workbook contains practice exercises for homework.*

#### 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 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, Daniel Lee, 360-652-4500, [dlee@lwsd.wednet.edu](mailto:dlee@lwsd.wednet.edu) or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Amie Vretilen-Grubbs, 360-652-4500, [avretilen-grubbs@lwsd.wednet.edu](mailto:avretilen-grubbs@lwsd.wednet.edu).