

Summer 2021

# Friends & Neighbors

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



LAKWOOD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Summer School 2021:

# Catching Up & Pushing Ahead

*More than 350 local students enjoy free extended learning opportunities*

Two thumbs up was Trippe Wagner's review of Lakewood School District's 2021 Summer School program. Set to start first grade in September, Trippe's family wanted him to have more classroom experience and another opportunity for face-to-face interaction.

"With school being remote for so much of his Kindergarten year he didn't have as much experience meeting other kids and making friends," Pete Wagner explained. "It (summer school) has been really good for him. Seeing that the classes were free just made it a no brainer to sign him up."

As our community begins to, hopefully, put the pandemic behind us, our schools and students have some catching up to do. Lakewood schools' Summer School is helping more than 350 local students catch up and push ahead in their learning. The two 3-week sessions of classes are open to all ages, free of charge to families, and transportation is provided. Federal COVID relief funds will reimburse the school district for the cost of the program.

Soon to be 8th grader Kailey Yotter says her mother was adamant about Kailey and her brother, Brayden, participating in Summer School. "I didn't have bad grades or anything like that," Kailey stressed. "I wanted something to do and to be around other people." She is learning a new skill - American Sign Language, while her brother is taking band.

Some high school students are making up credits and a dozen are taking new courses to push closer to completing graduation requirements. Younger students are learning new skills like American Sign Language. Others are practicing their reading and math abilities through exploring new topics like engineering or advanced technology. A special "Cougar Success" session in August will help incoming high school freshman get to know the high school campus and learn study and organization skills to set them up for learning success.

In teacher Jayanna Haskell's classroom kindergarten students are learning about force and motion. Haskell helps them practice math and reading through this scientific exploration. She used classroom games and short individual interviews to quickly determine each child's needs. Through activities she tries to give each child what they need to advance their learning. The class built their own bowling alley to determine how force influences motion. Haskell said her focus is on learning through fun rather than drilling math facts or taking timed tests. "A lot of what they need is confidence as learners," Haskell explained. Read more about Summer School at [www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news](http://www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news).



Top to bottom: Derrick Duarte, Jack Pelland, Killian Rutten, Mabry Cloer, Eiza Campio-Delgado, CJ Oxstien, Owen Lewis and Daniella Tejada-Peralta.



[www.lwsd.wednet.edu](http://www.lwsd.wednet.edu)



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## Dan Green retires after 40 years of always answering the call for kids

Dan Green is a first responder. His truck may not be red. It does not have flashing lights or a siren. Yet Green has been answering Lakewood's public schools' calls for help for 40+ years. He is retiring this month.

"This is what I will miss most. When I call, Dan always answers the phone," said Green's supervisor Dale Leach, Executive Director of Operations. "Whether is 2 p.m.



**Dan Green**

or 2 a.m., when called Dan is always there to help."

Power, water, heat, or any

number of other needs have been on his 'to do' list since 1980 when he was hired for his expertise as a craftsman and knowledge of the various trades. About 30% of school maintenance work is funded by local taxpayers.

"Dan embodies what I believe the Lakewood community wants to be about – putting service to others above all else," said Kim Caldwell, principal at Lakewood Elementary School. Read more at [www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news](http://www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news).

## Grand gift key to music instruction



*Saya Barber takes the ivories for spin on Lakewood Middle School's new baby grand piano donated in memory of Patricia Rice, mother of LMS music teacher Dr. Dieter Rice.*

### *Piano donated to Lakewood Middle School music program will benefit students for years*

It is likely no surprise that Lakewood Middle School music teacher Dr. Dieter Rice grew up in a musical family.

"I remember music lessons on the family antique upright piano when I was 5 or 6 years old," Dr. Rice remembers. That early learning expanded into playing several more instruments and culminated in earning a doctorate in performing on the saxophone. Dr. Rice has shared his love of music with youth through teaching since 1999 and has taught in Lakewood for the past 7 years.

This spring his family made the generous donation of a Kohler and Campbell SKG 500 baby grand piano valued at approximately \$7500. "It is in mint condition and has an excellent sound," Dr. Rice explained.

The piano in the middle school's music department was growing old. Some of the keys needed repair and the exterior finish was deteriorating. LMS students had named it "Crusty." Donating the new piano in his mother's memory is special to Dr. Rice. He believes his mom would be honored to know this gift will benefit students learning music for years to come. No word yet on a name for the new baby grand. Maybe it should be Patsy as Dr. Rice's mom was known to her family and friends. Read more at [www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news](http://www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news).

## Leah Tocco appointed to School Board

Leah Tocco is the newest member of the Lakewood School Board of Directors. The 39-year-old mother of four, lives in the Mountain Meadows neighborhood with her husband Brian. She has two children starting Kindergarten at English Crossing Elementary in the fall, a stepdaughter starting her freshman year at Lakewood High School and another stepdaughter studying to be a nurse.

"I am really excited to be of service," said Tocco of her July 21st appointment to the Board. "I strive, and teach my children to strive, to be civically responsible and community stewards."

Local voters will have the opportunity to elect Tocco to this seat in November. She is running unopposed. Tocco replaces Larry Bean who resigned earlier this spring. Read more about Tocco at [www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news](http://www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news).



**Leah Tocco**

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