



# GATOR CHRONICLE

Lakewood Elementary School

Vol. 19

December 2025

Kelli Oertling, Principal

Amanda Morgan & Holly Thompson, Assistant Principals

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## Principal's Message:

It's hard to believe December is already here! As I reflect on the first semester, I am incredibly proud of the great things happening at Lakewood. Our dedicated faculty and staff work diligently each day to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students and to ensure Success and Nothing Less for All. We continue to demonstrate teamwork, resilience, and a spirit of moving forward together — always striving to “Just Keep Swimming.”

Our students have already reached our school-wide incentive three times this year, which reflects their hard work and the positive habits they are building. We continue to focus on the 7 Mindsets as we celebrate our incentive — Dress Like a Teacher Day- on Tuesday, December 9. Ask your child about how their class is working as a team and creating ripples of success through positive choices.

As you begin thinking about holiday gifts for your child, don't forget the power of books. Parents often ask how they can support academic growth at home — and the answer is simple: read. Research shows that reading just 20 minutes per day significantly boosts academic performance. It doesn't matter what they read — what matters is that they read. Ask your child what they enjoy reading and follow their interests.

We would also like to wish your family a joyful holiday season as we look forward to sharing in the festivities together. Please join us for our classroom Christmas celebrations on Friday, December 19. Additional details regarding classroom celebrations will be sent home soon.

Thank you for your partnership and your continued commitment to helping our students succeed. As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy holidays — and happy reading!

Warmly,

*Kelli Oertling,*  
LWE Principal



Don't forget to  
follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550061518511>

# Parent Teacher Organization

## PTO is diving in at Lakewood Elementary!

As we approach the holiday season, LWE PTO sends warm wishes to all of you! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful Thanksgiving break and is looking forward to the exciting holiday celebrations ahead.

PTO is excited to spread Christmas cheer to our faculty, staff, and students, thanks to the continuous support of our amazing Gator families. Your support allows us to shower everyone with gifts and treats this holiday season!

For any questions, reach out to us via email at [lwegatorspto@gmail.com](mailto:lwegatorspto@gmail.com) or connect with us on our Facebook page at Lakewood Elementary PTO, Luling, LA.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season!

**LWE PTO!**



## School Bus Spotlight

This month we are highlighting Bus 458 and Bus 473 and the students who are **creating a ripple** this year by following bus expectations and showing good character.



Bus 458– Driver- Marty Pizzitola  
Students-Parker Fernandez  
and Violet McStay



Bus 473- Driver- Kirk Washington  
Students- Jaycee Simmons  
and Kingston Ransaw

**“Success and Nothing Less for All”**

## Turkey Time!



On the day before Thanksgiving break, a flock of turkeys roamed the halls of Lakewood Elementary.

## Spirit of Christmas



This is the tree the LWE talented art students decorated for the "Spirit of Christmas" walking tour at Destrehan Plantation benefiting Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center. The tree will be on display November 28 - December 30, weather permitting and closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Admission is \$10 per person, children under 4 are FREE. More information can be found at [www.GNOTRC.org](http://www.GNOTRC.org) or [www.DestrehanPlantation.org](http://www.DestrehanPlantation.org).

## Lakewood's Mission

The mission of Lakewood Elementary School is to ensure success and nothing less for all.



## Lakewood's Vision

Lakewood Elementary School empowers all students to develop skills necessary to grow academically, socially, and emotionally in order to achieve success in our constantly changing world.

## Lakewood's Beliefs

We believe ...

- all students can learn, achieve, and succeed.
- in setting high expectations for all.
- in creating an environment that is safe and inviting.
- in providing an inclusive climate where all experience diversity, empathy, belonging, and respect.
- in promoting a culture of dignity where all are valued as individuals with unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.
- our school, community, and families are collaborative partners in the education of our students.

## Lakewood's Daily Expectations

1. Be Responsible
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Safe

## Uniform/Sweatshirt Donations

If you have any gently used uniforms that your child outgrew and you are no longer using, please consider donating them to our school. As the weather gets colder, our need for LWE sweatshirts or plain maroon sweatshirts will especially increase.



**"Success and Nothing Less for All"**

## Counselors' Corner

December is the season of giving, caring, and helping others feel included. Let's spread kindness during the holidays. Research shows kindness boosts confidence, reduces stress, improves relationships, creates positivity, and makes a better place for everyone. Kindness doesn't cost a thing, and it's the greatest gift we can give. Being kind doesn't have to be big. It can be a little moment that can change someone's whole day!

Ideas of how children can show kindness

- Draw a holiday card for an elderly family member and deliver it
- Make a thank you card for someone special
- Write a note of appreciation to a teacher
- Compliment a classmate
- Put a happy note in a siblings backpack
- Donate a toy to charity
- Help bake cookies for a neighbor

“A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.”- Winnie the Pooh

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Scan the QR code to access the LWE Parent Counseling Corner



Please remind students to wear tennis shoes on Physical Education days.



## Noetic Learning Mathematics Contest District Winners

1st place-Jackson Degenhart

3rd place- Brennan Granier



## VFW Auxiliary Americanism Winners

The winners for Category 3:

Drawing of a Military Moment

1st Place - Kaysen Braud

2nd Place - Ava Petit

## Common Sense Media Carpool Conversations

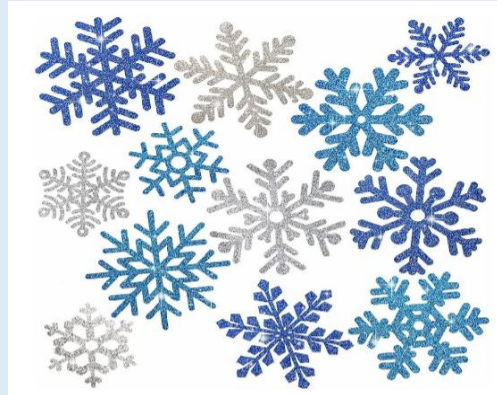
This audio series features an adult-child pair who briefly discuss prompts and then invite listeners to do the same. Use these on the go—your commute, waiting in line, and more! Let them get you started, and then dig deeper if possible.

- **Grades 3–5 playlist**

For more family-focused resources, like reviews and parent advice, visit Common Sense Media on our site or app!

And you can always visit our Family Engagement Resources page to find more activities, tip sheets, tech planners, videos, and more!

### What do snowmen eat for breakfast?



**Snowflakes!**

**Bring a friend and come eat breakfast every day at school.**

**“Success and Nothing Less for All”**

## Golden Gators!

Congratulations to the Golden Gators for October!



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Amari Harris  
Emilia Bosarge  
Mya Cummings  
Charlotte Bosarge  
Isla Cologne  
Elijah Amos  
Luis Borge  
Ian Breaux

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Grant Robin  
Reeves Lovett  
Rosalie Sumpter  
Ashton Ballard  
Caroline Lawrence  
Logan Dufrene  
Christian Antunez  
Juliette Berry




### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Nohelia Granado Garcia  
Gracyn Montet  
Mia Candies  
Aaliyah Abu Khalil  
Edfram Amaya Lopez  
Andrew Champagne  
Aiden Figueredo  
Augustus Schmill



**“Success and Nothing Less for All”**

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 Gatorettes Practice 3-4 pm	2 Robotics 3-4 pm	3 LWE Christmas Concert 6-7:30 pm @ LPAC	4 Running Club 3 -4 pm / Gatorettes Practice 3-4 pm	5	6
7	8 Gatorettes Practice 3-4 pm	9 Robotics 3-4 pm	10 Rotary Tree Lighting Ceremony 5:30-8:30 pm @Edward Dufresne Community Center	11 Running Club/ Gatorettes Practice 3-4 pm	12 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bowling Field Trip	13 Robotics Qualifiers @HHS
14	15 Gatorettes Practice 3-4 pm	16 Robotics 3-4 pm	17	18 Golden Gators Celebration 7:55 am / Running Club 3 -4 pm / Gatorettes Practice 3-4 pm	19 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks ends/ Holiday Spirit Day (students may wear holiday shirts with jeans or joggers) Early Dismissal 11:55 am	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f0e0; text-align: center;"> <h2>Christmas/New Year's Holidays- No School</h2> </div> 						

### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

**January 6:** Return to School/ 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks begins  
**January 8, 12, 15, 22, 26, 29:** Gatorettes Practice 3-4 pm  
**January 6, 13, 20, 27:** Robotics 3-4 pm  
**January 8, 15, 22, 29:** Running Club 3-4 pm  
**January 13:** Report cards go home  
**January 19:** MLK Holiday- **NO SCHOOL**  
**January 22:** DARE Graduation 9:45 am  
**January 29:** Golden Gators Celebration 7:55-8:15 am  
**January 30:** Special Olympics

### Homework Assistance Offered Through State Library of Louisiana

The State Library of Louisiana offers FREE homework assistance services to parents and students at <http://www.homeworkla.org>.

Homework Louisiana offers free online tutoring and academic resources from Tutor.com for Louisiana residents from kindergarten students through adult learners. Get help in math, science, social studies or English from a live tutor. The one-to-one tutoring hours are now 2 pm to Midnight, 7 Days a Week! Students may now access this service from any internet-connected computer or mobile device during these hours.

Please make sure to label your child's jackets, hoodies, lunch kit, etc. This way, if they are left somewhere on campus, they can be returned to your child.

