



Lakewood City Schools REPORT CARD

A Lakewood community newsletter

June 2019

LHS pair's artwork honored as among best in country

Lakewood High School senior Lillian Horschke and freshman Inga Wilhelmy have earned national Silver Medals in the prestigious Scholastic Art & Writing Awards presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. This competition is the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7–12. More than 340,000 pieces of art were submitted for the contest and earning a national award puts Lillian and Inga in the top 1% of participants.

Lillian Horschke won her Silver Medal

in the Printmaking category for her print "Evelyn". Inga Wilhelmy won her award in the Mixed Media category for her "Sea Shells" piece. The award-winning pieces of art are included in a national online exhibit on the Scholastic Art & Writing website at www.artandwriting.org.

Lillian and Inga's artwork earned Gold Medal status at the regional Scholastic competition that allowed them to move on to national-level judging. Lillian also earned a Silver Medal and an Honorable Mention for two other pieces judged at the

regional competition. Credit is also due to Lillian's teacher, Amy Sedlak, and Inga's teacher, Autumn Sabin.

In addition to Lillian and Inga, six Lakewood High School and West Shore Career-Tech students were named Golden Key winners at the regional level and also had their work judged at the national level. Those regional winners are: Sarah Drago (Photography), Emily Perry (Drawing & Illustration), Darnesia Shields (Photography), Max Sloan (Film & Animation), Turner Sorge (Photography), and Lillian Utrata (Drawing & Illustration).



Lillian Horschke (left) and Inga Wilhelmy earned Silver Medals in the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Congrats to the Class of 2019!

Three hundred and one Lakewood High School seniors marched across the stage to receive their diplomas on June 2, in front of a packed Civic Auditorium full of their family, friends and teachers. Graduates received their diplomas from Board of Education President Linda Beebe along with congratulations from Superintendent Mike Barnes and LHS Principal Mark Walter.

Leading the way for their classmates was class Valedictorian Elizabeth Halko. Halko addressed her class along with Marisa Campbell and Aurora Piotrowski. Forty-seven grads wore Hawthorne Medals for attaining a 4.0 or better cumulative GPA.

Our students will attend a wide variety of colleges, many with large scholarships,

including full tuition offers. In addition to our Ohio state and private schools, they will attend schools across the nation such as University of Southern California, Hawaii Pacific University, Colgate University, University of Miami, Florida State University, Lehigh University and Indiana University.

We are especially proud of our eight graduates choosing to serve in the military.

We also celebrated the graduation of 15 Lakewood City Academy students. The LCA grads received their diplomas at a ceremony during the June 3 Board of Education meeting.

Congratulations to all of our Class of 2019 graduates and best wishes to you as you move on to your next chapter!



The Lakewood High School Class of 2019 graduates do the traditional cap toss following their commencement ceremony on June 2.



District a Best Communities for Music Education winner

Lakewood City Schools has earned its third straight Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Lakewood is one of only 38 districts in Ohio that earned the designation.

The Best Communities Music Education des-

ignation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, the District answered detailed questions about funding, fine arts graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities,

support for the music program, and community music programs.

"We are fortunate to be in a community that places music and the arts as one of its most valued assets and expresses support for music education in many ways," said Superintendent

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Awards & Recognitions

HIGH SCHOOL

Students earn top spots in Beck/Rotary awards

Lakewood High students were top award-winners in the 74th annual Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contests sponsored by the Beck Center for the Arts. Lakewood students swept the speech category and took the top spot in the music category.

Contest participants were students from the five Lakewood and Rocky River high schools. Awards are given for first through third place and then Honorable Mentions are awarded at the judges' discretion for the music and visual arts categories. The place winners were all awarded cash prizes of varying amounts.

Earning first place were junior Grace Gill in the speech contest and senior Kira Marjanovic in the

music competition. Grace spoke about needle exchanges and Kira performed on the trumpet. Additional winners were juniors Ella Chanter (2nd place, speech), Connor Starowesky (2nd place, visual arts), Isabella Dombrowski (3rd place, visual arts), Haley Schultz (3rd place, speech), Ava Wahl (4th place, speech), and senior Zearatus Perry (3rd place, music, viola). Honorable mentions went to junior Natalie Costello and seniors Zed Skinner (visual arts) and Breslin McRae (music, voice).

Academic Challenge in national tourney again

Congratulations to the Lakewood High School Academic Challenge Team on its excellent performance in the 2019 High School National Championship Tournament, where the team joined 335 of the top high school quiz bowl teams in Atlanta May

24-26. Lakewood finished the preliminary rounds with a 6-4 record, which qualified the team for the playoffs.

The team was captained by Tim Daso and Michael Ferrone, who were joined by Evan Bell, John Bobik, Aidan Bohac, and Sasha Seckers. The team advisers are LHS teachers Peter Petto and Bob Sedlak.

Lakewood High School's team finished in 97th place. Congratulations to all on an excellent season!

Juniors earn top two spots in Hiram writing contest

Lakewood High students took home the top two spots in the Hiram College Emerging Writers Nonfiction Contest and had several other finalists, including an Honorable Mention award. Earning first place was junior Halina Dreger and runnerup was junior Tyler Biddulph.



Academic Challenge varsity members (from left): Tim Daso, Michael Ferrone, Evan Bell, John Bobik, Aidan Bohac, and Sasha Seckers.

A dinner was held on April 2, 2019 at the college recognizing all the honored young writers. Each year for the contest a specific theme must be addressed. This year's theme was "Technology." In addressing the contest theme, contestants were asked to consider specific pluses and minuses of technology in their

own life.

Others earning recognition for their writing were finalists sophomore Sarah Jarecke, and juniors Cameron Levis, Anna Rigdon, Laura Shields, and Audrey Stahl. Junior Evan Bell earned an Honorable Mention. The contest is open to all Ohio high school sophomores and juniors.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mock trial teams shine in state showcase

Garfield and Harding middle schools each took two teams to Columbus to compete in the statewide Middle School Mock Trial Showcase sponsored by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education. The May competition saw 47 middle school teams go to trial against each other at the Ohio Supreme Court Building. Each of the schools' team members earned numerous "Best" awards in the process.

Garfield's two teams won 5 of 8 possible "Best" awards: Jazi Dunay and Chaiya Herberger won "Best Attorney", while Corrine Wroblewski, Dominic Peck, and Erica Frischauf won "Best Witness" awards.

Harding came home with 6 out of 8 possible "Best" awards: Ed Horton, Zoe Pace, Rhianon Riker, and Julia Kompier all won "Best Witness" awards, while Alex Hodson and Leah

Campbell won "Best Attorney" awards for their trials.

Overall, all four of Lakewood's Garfield and Harding teams just missed the cutoff for the highest Superior ranking (98 or above). Harding's teams averaged 95.5 and 96; Garfield's teams averaged 95 and 96.5. Only 5 out of the 47 teams achieved that top Superior rating.

This year, the Middle School Mock Trials were based on the book "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry," by Mildred Taylor, in which a main character is charged with aggravated murder. Each middle school team subdivides into a prosecution and a defense squad, and prepares for two different trials against other Ohio middle schools.

Students take on the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and bailiff/timers; trials occur in real courtrooms in front of real attorneys who act as trial judges and who rate teams on case understanding, professional demeanor, oratory skills, and understanding of trial technique and courtroom procedure.



The Harding (top) and Garfield Mock Trial teams that competed in the Middle School Mock Trial Showcase at the Ohio Supreme Court in Columbus in May.

The teams were led by Dan Smith at Garfield and Sonja Kreps at Harding, with help from attorneys Peggy Smith and Dan Shields.

The advisers would like to thank the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation for its donation that helped make the trip to Columbus possible.

REFLECTIONS

Two students earn top places in state judging

The Lakewood Council of PTAs Reflection Committee saw five of its submissions for judging at the state level earn recognition for further artistic merit. In the high school visual arts category, senior Riley Geyer won first place, which qualified her piece to move on to national judging. Garfield Middle School seventh grader Nora Germaine earned a second place in the state in the middle school visual arts category.

Also receiving recognition were seniors Anna Rigdon and Claire Schuppel in the literature category and senior Lillith Horschke in the visual arts category. All three earned an Honorable Mention.

Out of thousands of pieces of artwork submitted for state judging, only six students were recognized in each age level/category.

The Reflections program offers students from schools with active PTAs the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Entries must follow a chosen theme. This year's was "Heroes Around Me".

New principals on board at Hayes, Roosevelt for 2019-2020

Due to their respective principals retiring, both Hayes Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary will have new leaders when the next school year begins in August. Eric Fortuna will be replacing Sandy Powers at Hayes and Allison Aber will take the reins from Eileen Griffiths at Roosevelt. Both start their positions on August 1.

Aber, in her current role as principal at Longfellow Elementary School of Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools, provided

robust professional development for her staff, implemented a new schedule with collaborative intervention and enrichment at each grade level, created a learning lab makerspace, and was successfully awarded over \$20,000 in grant money from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. During her time at Longfel-



Aber

low, AIR testing scores improved nearly 10%.

Before her role as principal, Aber served as assistant principal at Madison Local Schools' middle school for

four years. Prior to joining the administrative ranks, Aber was a math and language arts teacher working with students in both grades 5 and 6 in the Madison



Fortuna

Local and Highland Local school districts.

Fortuna, who is currently principal at Constellations Schools' Elyria Community Elementary School, has served as an administrator for the past decade. Under Fortuna's leadership, Elyria Community has received the Momentum Award from the Ohio Department of Education for receiving all A's in the Value Added component of the state report card for 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Fortuna is well trained in imple-

mentation of the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) plan, which is the same plan that Hayes has been following over the past couple years. Fortuna has made relationship-building with staff, students, and parents a priority when it comes to developing a positive school culture.

Fortuna also served as assistant principal for the Parma Community Elementary School. Before joining the administrative ranks, he was a science and social studies teacher in grades 5-8.

#LkwdGreenTeam launches



A new District committee, the #LkwdGreenTeam, is already making an impact around the District as recycling efforts have ramped up, particularly in the cafeterias, and a new butterfly pollinator garden was planted at the high school. Pictured here, members of the LHS football program and Performing Arts Department transform the bare patch of land behind the Civic Auditorium into a healthy new garden!

State awards district clean financial audit

The Lakewood City School District has been awarded the Auditor of the State Award for excellence in financial reporting for the fiscal year 2018 as determined by the office of Auditor Keith Faber.

The Auditor of State Award is presented to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a financial audit. Entities that receive the award

meet the following criteria of a "clean" audit report:

1. The entity must file timely financial reports with the Auditor of State's office in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles);

2. The audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or

questioned costs;

3. The entity's management letter contains no comments related to: ethics referrals; questioned costs less than \$10,000; lack of timely report submission; reconciliation, failure to obtain a timely Single Audit; findings for recovery less than \$100; public meetings or public records; no other financial or other concerns exist that involve eligible entity.

LCA to become Franklin School of Opportunity

After months of gathering input from all stakeholders, including students and parents, the District has landed on a name for its alternative learning school. The program that currently operates as part of Lakewood City Academy and is housed at the former Franklin Elementary Building will be called the Franklin School of Opportunity beginning July 1.

In January, the District announced that it would not be renewing its state-sponsored charter for LCA when the sponsorship expires on June 30, 2019.

The move would allow for greater flexibility in crafting an alternative learning program that fits Lakewood students' needs without the rigid requirements of the state. The new name gives the students and staff ownership of the program moving forward to help design and implement curriculum and extracurriculars related to the particular needs of the Franklin School of Opportunity students.

"We have a long way to go with many more pieces to the puzzle, but District leadership has allowed for our team to move in the right direction for what is best for the students. We are excited," said Lakewood City

Academy Coordinator Terri Bornino-Elwell.

Current LCA staff members and Bornino-Elwell have visited alternative schools throughout Ohio researching teaching methods and curriculums. A Transformation Task Force has been meeting weekly, discussing transition issues and brainstorming ideas about the structure and content of the new alternative programming.

The team has discussed ways to incorporate more project-based, and career-related learning, boosting the technology presence in the classroom and exploring internship possibilities with local businesses, among other ideas. The group has also developed a new mission statement:

"Franklin School of Opportunity provides a safe, caring, supportive environment where non-traditional learners are empowered academically and personally to reach their full social, emotional and academic potential. We are a team of educators that embrace diversity, welcome creativity and work together to achieve for all students."

This will guide everyone's actions as the process moves toward launching the new program with the 2020-2021 school year.

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SPORTS

Hannah's top 10 finishes at state tournament highlight of season

It was a thrilling spring season at Lakewood High as senior Tyler Hannah placed among the Top 10 in Ohio with a 4th place finish in the 300 meter hurdles and 7th place finish in the 110 hurdles at the State Tournament. Tyler's state performances came on the heels of winning region and conference championships.

The baseball team's first-round playoff win over North Olmsted was also a highlight. Each team also had members named to the All-Southwest Conference teams or earn an honorable mention. The following were singled out for their performance this season:

Baseball: Jared Yocabet (1st Team); Armani Adames (2nd Team); Terence Checkett (Honorable Mention); and Sean Miller (Sportsmanship)

Softball: Maizy Cunningham (2nd Team); Tara Kantora (Honorable Mention); Hannah Martin (Sportsmanship)

Boys Tennis: Tru Smith (1st Team, Sportsmanship); Ben Swartz (Honorable Mention)

Boys Track & Field: Tyler Hannah, Cormac Peppard-Kramer, Devon Brown, Jack Hueter (1st Team); Alvin Musai, Ahmed Muhammed (Honorable Mention); Aiden Zingale (Sportsmanship)

Girls Track & Field: Ebony Bradford, Tegan McGann (Honorable Mention); Alissah Lopez (Sportsmanship)



DAVID A. CLEVELAND/PhotoDAC.com

Lakewood Athletics to join Great Lakes Conference in 2020-2021

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the Lakewood City Schools athletic teams will move from competing in the Southwest Conference, where the District has been a member since 2015, to competing in the Great Lakes Conference. The move will provide more balanced competition for Lakewood Ranger teams and allow them to better develop, and in some cases rekindle, rivalries with schools that are in closer proximity to Lakewood.

"We look forward to joining the Great Lakes Conference and providing our student-athletes with spirited competition

coupled with less travel time, allowing a better balance for students and families," said Lakewood High School Principal Mark Walter. "We thank the SWC for its support over the last four years."

The Great Lakes Conference is currently made up of Bay Village, Buckeye, Elyria Catholic, Fairview, Holy Name, Normandy, Parma, Rocky River, and Valley Forge high schools.

During the District's time with the Southwest Conference, Ranger teams have won three conference titles, one by the boys basketball team in 2018 and two by the boys cross country team (2016, 2018). There were also numerous conference champions, including multiple champions in swimming and track and field.

Music

continued from PAGE 1

Mike Barnes.

"Our teachers' dedication and passion for instilling a lifelong love of music in our students and providing them opportunities to grow musically is amazing."

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. In a series of landmark studies by scientists and researchers at Northwestern University a link was found between students in community music programs and life-long academic success.

The Lakewood City School

District offers music education from kindergarten through 12th grade. Instrumental instruction begins in 5th grade. Middle school offerings include classroom band, orchestra, and choir with extracurricular opportunities in all three.

The high school hosts five orchestras, four choirs, three bands, and classes in music theory, music history, pop music and keyboard. In addition, our high school extracurricular ensembles provide numerous opportunities for our students to enhance their musical experience through groups such as the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band, The Lakewood Project, Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, just to name a few.

Battle of the Books conquerors



Lincoln Elementary's team came out the victors in the first 5th Grade Battle of the Books competition. The teams played a Jeopardy-style tournament based on nine books read over the school year. Pictured from left: Sam Smoot, Tigerlily Brindier, Mia Restow, Jameson Walker, Parker Toke, and Cassondra Paul.