



Lakewood City Schools REPORT CARD

A Lakewood community newsletter

March 2020

District earns Best Communities for Music Education designation

For the fourth consecutive year, Lakewood City Schools has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Lakewood is one of 754 from across the country and only 47 in Ohio to earn the prestigious award.

The Best Communities Music Education designation 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, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the

music program.

This award recognizes that Lakewood City Schools is leading the way with music learning opportunities as outlined in the federal education legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation designates music and the arts as important elements of well-rounded education for all children. Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music.

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 such



as Strolling Strings and Jazz Band.

The high school boasts of 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 opportunities for our students to enhance their musical experience through groups such as the Ranger Marching Band, The Lakewood Project, Chamber Choir and Jazz Band, just to name a few.

Thank you, voters!

Once again the Lakewood community showed that it values its public school district and the education it provides for our city's children!

In the April 28 election, our 4.9 mill operating and permanent improvement levies passed 76.66% to 26.34%, according to unofficial results at presstime.

Said Superintendent Mike Barnes: "During this extremely trying time in our community, we are extremely grateful for their support and commitment to keeping our schools strong and stable."

Plans for the new funds include:

- Providing more mental health services and counseling for our students;
- Retaining and recruiting high-quality teachers by paying them competitive salaries
- Expanding STEM offerings;
- Keeping educational technology and other learning materials up-to-date;
- Expanding career tech educational opportunities for middle and high school students;
- Expanding early childhood programs; and
- Keeping all of our buildings, athletic fields, and other assets in good condition.

From Severance to the Civic



ALEXANDER BELISLE

The District's unique partnership with the Cleveland Orchestra started in 1955 when the Orchestra gave the debut performance in the Civic Auditorium. Since then, the Orchestra has graced the Civic stage many times, including

on Feb. 16 when the Orchestra hosted its second community concert in recent years for our city. A full house enjoyed the sounds of Beethoven, performed by one of the best orchestras in the world. Thank you, Cleveland Orchestra.

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Awards & Recognitions

HIGH SCHOOL

Another successful Academic Challenge year

Due to its very successful outcomes in this year's tournaments, the Lakewood Academic Challenge Team once again qualified for the National Academic Quiz Tournaments' National Tournament. Although the team will not be able to attend due to the coronavirus pandemic, we can celebrate the fact that it would have been the seventh straight year that the team has qualified for a national tournament.

The team also recently completed on a segment on the WEWS Westfield Insurance Academic Challenge television broadcast. The team won its episode with a convincing margin against

Garfield Heights and Valley Forge high schools. The winning team overall will be announced in June. The team is coached by teachers Peter Petto and Bob Sedlak.

Pair's art chosen for governor's exhibit

Lakewood High senior Natalie Costello and junior Nola Williams-Riseng each had their artwork selected to be part of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. The works are two of 275 from students across the state chosen for the exhibit, which due to the pandemic will be a virtual exhibit this year.

Regional judges received more than 1,000 entries from Northeast Ohio high schools and from those, 126 were selected to join winners from the other regions to be judged at the state level.

PTA REFLECTIONS

27 finalists advanced in competition; four honored at state level

Congratulations to the students who were honored at the Lakewood Council of PTAs Reflections ceremony in late January. This year's theme for the art recognition program was "Look Within."

Each of the nine PTA units could submit up to 24 original works to go on to the Council level. Of those 24, 70 made it to District Council level. From those entries, 27 pieces were selected from a panel of judges to represent Lakewood in Columbus at the State level.

Entries were in areas of Visual Arts, Photography, Literature, Dance Choreography, Music Composition, and Film Production.

Out of the 27 District finalists, four of our students' artwork was honored at the state level. Grant Elementary fifth-grader Sean Miller won an Award of Excellence - Ohio's highest honor - in the literature category for the

Intermediate level. His piece will move on to national judging. Out of thousands of pieces of artwork submitted for state judging, only six students were recognized in each age level/category.

Harding eighth-grader Edie Barcelona earned a second-place Award of Outstanding Achievement for her dance choreography. Lakewood High senior Jane Kalinowski earned a third-place Award of Merit in the visual arts category, and Garfield seventh-grader Anna Maurer earned an Honorable Mention in the visual arts category.

The following students' submissions represented Lakewood at the State level:

Lakewood High School

Aubree Nagel - Literature
Esther Dolatowski - Visual Arts
Hana Johnson - Visual Arts

ELEMENTARY

Hayes custodian earns national honor

Hayes Elementary head custodian Kris Kantor was recently chosen as one of three nationwide quarterly winners in the Custodians are Key contest sponsored by Tennant Co., a provider of cleaning products and solutions.

Each quarter, Tennant selects three custodians based on nominations they receive. Those three are then eligible to win the grand prize as the top finalist at the end of the school year. Kantor will receive \$500 for being a quarterly winner. The grand prize winner selects from prizes valued at \$5,000 and the winner's building is awarded \$10,000.



A Hayes staff member nominated Kantor for his incredible organization, attention to detail, and the respect and kindness he shows to everyone. Kantor's popular Kids with Kantor afterschool program allows

students to learn about building and creating with hand tools and donated project kits from Home Depot and Lakewood Hardware.

Principal Eric Fortuna feels fortunate to have Kantor on his team. "Kris goes above and beyond and always brings a positive attitude to work each day. He goes out of his way to help everyone."

WEST SHORE

Culinary students medal in state contest

Our West Shore Career-Tech Culinary Arts students were stars at the Family, Careers, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) regional competition in Columbus on February 29. Our students won all gold medals except for one silver for their creations. The students worked many additional hours after school to perfect their recipes. Congratulations to our award-winning pastry chefs:

Culinary Junior Team: Gold Medal - Alexis Frost, Madison Lacquement, Katie Milezewski
Pastry Tray Senior: Silver Medal - Emma Nagy
Pastry Tray Junior: Silver Medal - Paige Murrin
Pastry Cake Senior: Gold Medal - Madison Zoller
Pastry Cake Junior: Silver Medal - Destiny Ayala
Congratulations also to Chefs Devan Corti and Rob McGorray for their expertise and guidance.



The young artists recognized at the annual PTA Reflections ceremony.

Jackie Branch - Visual Arts
Jane Kalinowski - Visual Arts
Katy Spilsbury - Literature
Kendall Lunsford - Visual Arts
Rachel Griffin - Literature
Turner Sorge - Visual Arts
Una Bryson - Literature

Garfield Middle School

Anna Maurer - Visual Arts
Baylee Martinich - Visual Arts
Kiara Longenecker - Literature

Harding Middle School

Amalija Marich - Visual Arts
Anna Daso - Visual Arts
Edie Barcelona - Choreography

Lily Ann Carlin - Visual Arts
Lucy McDonald - Photography
Owen Bees - Photography

Horace Mann Elementary

Olivia Markovitz - Visual Arts

Grant Elementary

Bridgit Sutliff - Visual Arts
Indigo Moncrief - Visual Arts
Leelu Baxter - Visual Arts
Sean Miller - Literature

Roosevelt Elementary

Evelyn Lucko - Visual Arts
Scarlett Cooper - Visual Arts

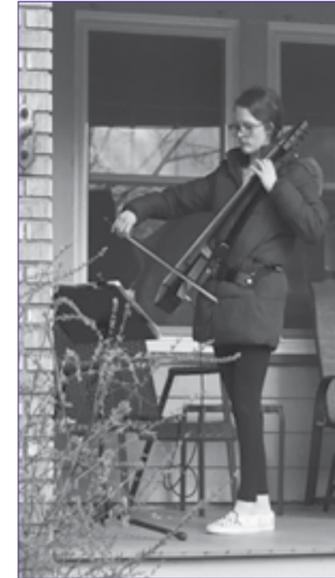
Lincoln Elementary

Sebastian Tougouma - Visual Arts

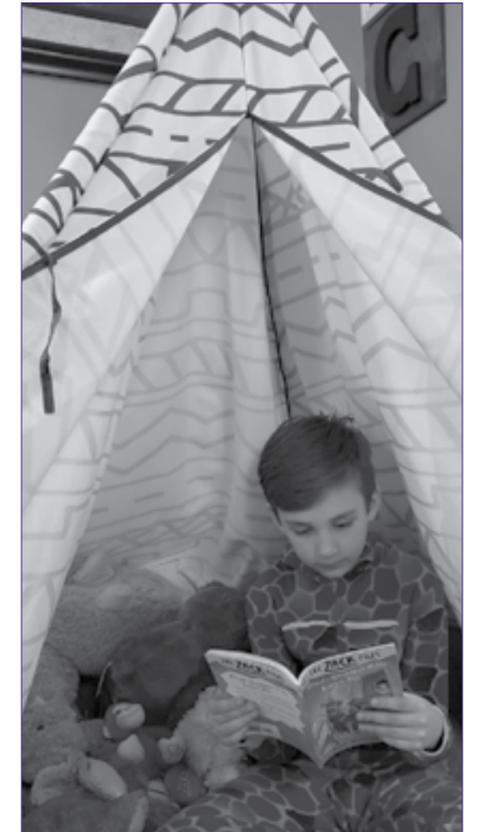
District adjusts to remote learning life

No one could have imagined at the beginning of March how all our lives would so drastically change by the end of the month. Our students, staff, and families have been managing remote learning since March 30, after Gov. DeWine ordered all Ohio public school buildings closed. According to a recent parent survey, it is proceeding well for most. Teachers are connecting online via Zoom meetings, Google Classrooms, emails,

phone calls, and even letters and postcards. Buildings' staff have been so creative in finding ways to create a sense of community while being physically apart with things such as staff parades through the neighborhood, front-porch concerts, and virtual spirit weeks. While we wish everyone could be back in our classrooms, we are grateful for everyone's flexibility, adaptability, and positive attitude. We are in this together, Lakewood!



Pictured from left: An LHS student performs in one of the weekly Thursday front porch concerts occurring in April; Harrison staff member Mary Day is ready for the staff parade despite the snow; a Lincoln student shows one of the benefits of school from home - comfy reading spots.



Roosevelt creates a house system to grow building bonds

If it worked for Hogwarts, why not Roosevelt Elementary? In February, after much planning by the Roosevelt staff, a new student and staff house system was unveiled to the school community with exciting sessions of virtual wheel spinning where students found out which house they will call home and a kickoff all-school assembly to reveal staff house assignments and house expectations.

Roosevelt staff collaborated together for months to create five unique houses, which will include approximately 50 students and eight staff each with students mixed in from all grade levels. Students and staff will remain in that same house from year-to-year at Roosevelt, and new students will join a house when they begin at Roosevelt.

"We think of the houses as smaller families or communities within our school," said Roosevelt Principal Allison Aber. "With this system, we will engage in healthy competition and spirit, and teach students how to contribute their efforts toward a group. Through this, we will build stronger student-student relationships, student-staff relationships, and school-wide community."

Each house has a color, which are the colors of the five Olympic rings, and each house name is a valued trait in a language from a part of the continent represented by the colored ring. The houses are:

House of Amistad (red, friendship in Spanish)

House of Jijixing (yellow, positivity in Chinese)

House of Zoid (green, guardian in Hungarian)

House of Shupavu (black, strength in Swahili)

House of Corroboree (blue, dreamer in Aboriginal)

According to Principal Aber, students will get an opportunity to make individual contributions to their house each and every day. Extraordinary behaviors will be reinforced with tickets that collectively count toward his/her house total points. Once in-person school resumes, houses will hold meetings where students and staff will get to know one another and learn about their house. Students of the month and staff will be recognized and get a chance to earn bonus points for their house.

The new system was revealed through a fun digital



wheel spin by grade level that assigned houses and then celebrated in a pep rally-like school assembly.

"We are eager to create a culture of belonging where every staff and student is a part of something," said Principal Aber.

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All courses and programs offered by the Lakewood City Schools and the West Shore Career Technical District are without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender, marital status, disability, or age in its educational programs, activities, employment policies or admission policies as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The district provides equal access to Boy Scouts and other designated groups. Jeffrey Schlade serves as Title IX Coordinator and Lisa Bruening as 504 Coordinator.

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LHS, W. Shore artists earn top regional honors

Congratulations to our students from Lakewood High School and the West Shore Career-Tech Media Art & Design who won highest honors among the 42 awards earned in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition. LHS and West Shore students won seven Gold Keys, the highest honor given, including two each by senior Natalie Costello and junior Nola Williams-Riseng.

Lakewood students were also well-represented at the Silver Key and Honorable Mention levels. Nine students won 12 Silver Keys, including three by senior Jane Kalinowski, two by juniors Timothy Frolo and Cameron Krizman. Eighteen students earned Honorable Mention designations for their art.

Additional Gold Key winners are: Lakewood High art senior Patrick McCallum and Media Art & Design students senior Darnasia Shields and junior Willow Rosser. Gold Key winners move on to be judged at the national level of the 95-year-old competition. Nola Williams-Riseng photograph "Erimari" was also nominated for a special American Visions Award.

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the regional competition that recognizes cre-

ative achievement in 7-12 grade students in Northeast Ohio. The artists compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarships. A panel of local artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries.

This year's regional winners were honored at an awards ceremony in January at the Cleveland Institute of Art and their work was displayed in the CIA's art gallery for several weeks. In addition to our Gold Key winners, the following students' artwork was honored:

Silver Key Winners:
(approximately 10-15% of regional entries)
Natalie Costello – Drawing & Illustration
Esther Dombrowski – Mixed Media
Isabella Dombrowski – Drawing & Illustration
Timothy Frolo (2) – Design & Digital Art (West Shore)
Jane Kalinowski (3) – Drawing & Illustration (2); Mixed Media
Cameron Krizman (2) – Digital Art; Design (West Shore)
Patrick McCallum – Printmaking
Katherine Skourlis – Film & Animation

(West Shore)
Melody Stone – Film & Animation (West Shore)
Honorable Mention:
Gaby Bush – Design (West Shore)
Ryan Constantinescu – Film & Animation
Natalie Costello – Drawing & Illustration
Chloe Derethik – Printmaking
Isabella Dombrowski – Drawing & Illustration
Justine Jaworski – Drawing & Illustration
Hana Johnson – Drawing & Illustration
Jane Kalinowski – Printmaking
Ivy Keeper – Mixed Media
Cammi Kresila – Photography (West Shore)
Erin McHugh – Photography
Kallie Mitchell – Drawing & Illustration
Eleanor Seikel – Digital Art (West Shore)
Darnasia Shields – Drawing & Illustration
Antonio Spencer – Photography (West Shore)



Nola Williams-Riseng earned a regional Gold Key award for her self-portrait pictured at right.

Gabby Toms (2) – Digital Art; Photography (West Shore)
Christina Westlake – Photography
Lila Wright – Drawing & Illustration

A District Finals appearance among highlights of Ranger winter season

The varsity winter sports season had some great highlights including new school records, playoff victories and many of our Rangers being named to the All Conference teams.

Here are some more highlights from the winter season:

Boys' basketball: Advanced to District Finals. All Confer-

ence honorees are Tommy Sala and Tim Smith (1st Team); Zion Kolodynski-Darby (2nd Team); and Nate Mims and Derek Walker (Honorable Mention).

Girls' basketball: All Conference honorees are Christian Massey (2nd Team) and Claire Hylton and Ava Clause (Honorable Mention).

Gymnastics: Julia Szentkiralyi and Halle Breudigan named to Honorable Mention All Conference team.

Ice Hockey: All-Conference honorees are William Holden (2nd Team) and Rob Holden and Alex Blinky (Hon. Mention).

Swimming & Diving: Sistina Simcox won the conference title

in 200-yard freestyle. All Conference honorees: Sistina Simcox (1st Team); Ethel Woodford, Sophia Miranda, Wilson Reynolds, and Joe Toole (Hon. Mention).

Indoor Track & Field: Along with State champion Tyler Hannah, Christina Auck and Cormac Peppard-Kramer qualified for the Indoor State Championship Tour-

namment in shot put and 800-meter run, respectively.

Wrestling: Yousef Awad qualified for State Tournament at 285 lbs. At the middle school level, Garfield's Muimyan Salti won 8th grade District title. All-Conference honorees: Yousef Awad and Jayden Jackson (Honorable Mention).