



# LAKEHURST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## Upcoming Events

- May 1-10** – PARCC Testing
- May 7** – PTA Meeting
- May 14** – Board Meeting
- May 15-17** – BOGO Book Fair

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Lakehurst Board of Education attended a board retreat that was facilitated by a representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association. The training focused on Social Networking, positive choices, and alarming statistics regarding various social media outlets. Social media has quickly become a societal norm for all members of our community. In order to guide students and teach them how to properly navigate their way through social networking, it is critical for parents to continually monitor what students are posting and writing on their accounts. The Lakehurst School District urges parents to stress the importance of responsible social media interactions. Please take a moment to review the social media statistics article, "171 Amazing Social Media Statistics You Should Know in 2018," which can be accessed via the Lakehurst School District website at <https://www.lakehurstschool.org/domain/138>.

Thank you,

Mrs. Loren Fuhring, Superintendent

## Welcome Spring

As we embrace the changing of the seasons, we also anticipate the arrival of the warmer weather that is associated with the spring. This is the time of year for our students to begin planning and planting items for our school garden. The planting of the Lakehurst School Community Vegetable Garden has become a yearly tradition for our students and correlates with both science and health curriculums. The garden remains largely funded by grants, such as the PRIDE Grant, which is funded by the Lakehurst Education Association. Students in Ms. Dolan's and Mrs. Triolo's science classes have already begun the growing process for their cucumber and tomato plants. Through these lessons the students have learned about the growing cycle, soil and composting, and most importantly nutrition. Our students always put forth a lot of effort to the success of this project. We look forward to seeing what the garden will produce this year!

## PTA Flashback

The Lakehurst Elementary School PTA has been very busy this school year making sure that all our students have been able to participate in fun and engaging events, even though we were all in different locations and operating on different schedules from September through December. From the first day of school, to the most recent self-defense assembly, our supportive PTA members have always had the best interests of our students in mind. Some of the exciting events they have set up for our students include a festive holiday workshop in December, where students were able to purchase gifts for the holidays. They were also treated to snacks and hot cocoa as a way to further spread the holiday cheer. The PTA also hosted a BINGO night in the Lakehurst gymnasium, once the school was cleared for re-entry. This event helped secure future PTA events and encourage participation in the annual Book Fair. The PTA members coordinated all the Book Fair events and even engaged individual classrooms through contests and activities that followed the "Stomp, Chomp, and Read" theme. They hosted an obstacle course assembly where staff members were split into teams and battled their way through challenging obstacles. This activity created an atmosphere that fostered excitement and intense school spirit. We would like to thank the Lakehurst PTA for organizing and facilitating so many wonderful events and activities for our students. We are also looking forward to what they have planned for the remainder of the school year! Thank you for all that you do!



## More Important News:

### Wings & Things

The gentlemen from the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class of 2019 followed tradition this year by participating in the annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Wings & Things. The idea behind this event is to unite the young men as a group and create a bonding moment by introducing conversations relevant to life transitions after middle school. The event was held on March 29, 2019. This year, the participants were fortunate to have a diverse group of special guests join their event. Mr. Brendan Sarao, Mr. Jermaine Jackson, and Mr. Dennis Adams, Principal of the Manchester Township High School, were this year's featured speakers. The young men were part of a discussion about the importance of self-respect, personal responsibility and the concept of grit. Attendees discussed these concepts and how they could apply them to their own lives, in order to prepare for current and future successes.



### Mental Health Awareness

LES fifth grade classes were invited to partake in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean County Mental Health Committee's Calendar Contest. Twelve schools were asked to participate in the contest, with one recipient from each school being represented in the final twelve-month calendar. The theme for the contest was "What a Difference a Friend Makes." The students were encouraged to create artwork that reflects positive messages about mental health, the importance of friendship, ways to be a good friend and support friends through difficult times. Through their participation in this activity, our students were able to increase their awareness about mental illnesses and also generate discussions about how differences can unite people. Students have learned to engage in proactive behavior to facilitate an environment founded on tolerance, which nurtures kindness, compassion and empathy in our students. The winning piece of artwork that was selected from our Lakehurst students was created by Makenzie James, of Mrs. Mottese's fifth grade class. She and the other winning artists will be invited to attend an award ceremony to celebrate this achievement on May 1, 2019. Congratulations Makenzie!

### Student of the Month Recipients

The Student of the Month program is based on qualities such as the following, but not limited to: character, leadership and citizenship; not solely on academics. The student of the month demonstrates exemplary character through his/her compassion, honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, optimism, and loyalty by helping to create a positive school environment. Congratulations to the following Student of the Month recipients for the month of March!

Ryan Hetzel – 3<sup>rd</sup>, L.S. – 3<sup>rd</sup>, Valentyna Lewis – 4<sup>th</sup>, Emma Gomez – 4<sup>th</sup>, Alexis Fidelino – 5<sup>th</sup>, Ashley Pauciello – 5<sup>th</sup>, Jade Andrews – 6<sup>th</sup>, Antonio Moore – 6<sup>th</sup>, Joshua Buruschkin – 7<sup>th</sup>, Liliانا Wilson – 7<sup>th</sup>, Rico Fidelino – 8<sup>th</sup>, Kaya Monaco – 8<sup>th</sup>



### Girls' Tea

The young women from the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2019 followed tradition this year and participated in the Annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Tea on March 28, 2019. Each year, Ms. Ward delivers an address to the girls, in which she encourages them to strive for success while also focusing on the importance of tradition and celebrating their differences. The girls enjoyed a delicious breakfast with the PTA, Board of Education members, middle school teachers and administration. This year the girls were fortunate to have Mrs. Christensen as a special guest speaker. Her presence was requested because she serves as a role model to our school community and was able to share words of empowerment with these young ladies. She spoke of her experience within the military community and her role as a Community Service Activist. She also spoke of her dedication to others and her desire to encourage others to help and volunteer as she does. She shared the story of her transition into the Lakehurst Community, and her efforts in creating and organizing the book donations known as "Operation Paperback." To conclude the event, the girls were guided in creating vision boards to help them envision their hopes and dreams for the future. This is a critical time in their lives, as they prepare to transition on to high school and the next chapters in their lives.