Lakeland Community Newsletter

FALL VOLUME 1 • SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER 2026



AP Bio speed dating



Boys Soccer Passaic County Champions



National Honor Society Induction

A Thanksgiving message

Dear Lakeland Families and Community Members,

As we reach Thanksgiving, I hope this newsletter gives you a chance to pause and see some of what our students and staff have accomplished this fall. From classroom discoveries and performances to championship seasons and acts of service, there is much to appreciate at Lakeland.

Over the last few weeks, I have been reminding our staff, and myself, to slow down. Our calendars fill quickly, and there is always one more thing to finish. But the conversations, laughter, and ordinary moments we share deserve our attention, too. This season offers us a chance to put the lists aside for a little while and enjoy being together.

I am thankful for our students, who bring curiosity, energy, and their own perspectives to our school each day. I am thankful for our families, who trust us with their children and partner with us through both celebrations and challenges. And I am thankful for our staff, whose patience, care, and commitment make a difference in ways that are not always visible.

Lakeland is a place where Haskell, Ringwood, and Wanaque come together. Thank you to our alumni, volunteers, local organizations, and community partners for helping our students feel supported and connected.

However you spend this Thanksgiving, I hope you find time to rest, reflect, and enjoy the people who matter to you. I look forward to the weeks ahead and to continuing our work together in the new year.

Wishing you and your family a peaceful and happy Thanksgiving.

Jaime Cangialosi-Murphy
Superintendent/CSA

Curiosity at work

Classroom discoveries and opportunities beyond the school day

90

MP1 average (rounded), tying last year's record

175

students with perfect MP1 attendance



UPAL students at the Eastern Analytical Symposium.



Welcoming new National English Honor Society members.

Learning through investigation

AP Biology students explored how cell structures work together through an organelle "speed dating" activity. Other science investigations challenged students to observe reactions and explain their findings. These lessons ask students to use evidence, collaborate, and make sense of what they see.

Reading across subjects

A passage in Beowulf led English students to investigate bioluminescent lakes and the science behind glowing water. Students also used peer feedback to strengthen their literary analyses. In Kinesiology, seniors worked with Ms. Spoelstra and Mr. Cervino to evaluate sources and search peer-reviewed databases.

Creative problem solving

Ceramics and Sculpture students turned paper towel tubes into radially balanced mandalas. Digital Photography students practiced Photoshop editing and created abstract studies of the human form.

UPAL beyond the classroom

University Program for Advanced Learning students visited Onkos Surgical to explore biomedical engineering careers. Guest speakers connected students with research in Antarctica and careers in biopharmaceuticals, while the Eastern Analytical Symposium offered another opportunity to see science and research in action.

Exploring life after Lakeland

Senior Options internships connected students with education, physical therapy, and other career settings. Students supported younger learners at Ryerson School, putting communication and leadership skills into practice.

Recognizing scholarship and character

Congratulations to our 46 new National Honor Society members, inducted November 18, and the 23 students welcomed into the Faber Society chapter of the National English Honor Society on November 19. Thank you to Brielle Fanning and Melissa Roush for guiding these celebrations.

The arts bring us together

Thank you to our student performers, artists, and the people who support them.



The cast and crew brought Queens to the stage in November.



Student expression at the November 19 Coffee House.

Music that brings us together

Our November 11 Veterans Day concert brought students, families, veterans, and community members together for an evening of music and appreciation. The Lancer Concert Band and Concert Chorus and Chorale honored those who have served and the families who support them. Thank you to Band Director Andy Brummer, Choral Director Dr. Fred Irwin, and all of our student musicians for the preparation and care they brought to the performance.

A fall filled with performance

From the band's welcome at Eighth Grade Open House to the music and school spirit of the fall season, our student musicians helped make Lakeland a gathering place for our communities. We appreciate the families and volunteers who support rehearsals, performances, and the work that happens behind the scenes.

Queens on stage

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Queens, our fall Drama Club production. Students brought their work to the stage in November with the support of Melissa Gentile. Theater Arts and English I students also visited Pax Amicus Castle Theater for The Life & Works of Edgar Allan Poe and a conversation with the performers.

An afternoon at Coffee House

The November 19 Coffee House gave students a welcoming space to share their talents in the Media Center. Thank you to our performers and to Mr. Kelly for organizing an afternoon of student expression and creativity.

SAVE THE DATE | WINTER CONCERT | DECEMBER 16

Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. Join us to celebrate our student musicians.

A fall season to celebrate

Our fall teams brought effort, determination, and school spirit to Lakeland.

Thank you to our student-athletes in every program, including field hockey, volleyball, and cheer; to Athletic Director Rich Suchanski, our coaches, trainers, and staff; and to the families and volunteers who supported them.



Girls cross country celebrates a third straight county title.

Girls cross country

A third consecutive Passaic County team championship and a division title. Mollie Horevay repeated as individual county champion and earned North Jersey Athlete of the Week recognition.

Boys soccer

Passaic County and Big North Independence Division champions, with a historic 20-0 start before its season concluded. Senior Michael DaSilva earned North Jersey Athlete of the Week recognition.

Girls soccer

Big North Independence Division champions and state sectional semifinalists. Jersey Holt earned North Jersey Athlete of the Week recognition. The Lady Lancers also supported the Ringwood Hunger Walk.

Boys cross country

Second place at the Passaic County Championships. Junior Daniel Seminara advanced to the Meet of Champions at Holmdel Park to represent Lakeland.

Girls tennis

Kylie Eviner won a county championship. The team qualified for the state tournament and finished 7-2 in Big North play.

Football

A strong 7-2 regular season included a last-minute winning touchdown against Dumont, a playoff berth, and the opportunity to host a postseason game. The team's success included many individual student recognitions, with three players earning First Team All-County honors.

First Team All-County athletes

Girls tennis: Kylie Eviner

Field hockey: Emma Allison, Aniela Buhowski

Girls soccer: Jersey Holt, Jenna Zahr

Girls cross country: Mollie Horevay, Julia Donza, Addison Parker

Football: Hunter Struble, Chace Severs, Ryan Sabric

Boys soccer: Michael DaSilva, Benjamin Kasko, Mason Sasso, Adam Spadaccini, David Gorny

Boys cross country: Micah Burt, Dan Seminara

Coaches of the Year

Dan Burkert - Girls Cross Country; David Falcon - Boys Soccer; Melissa Walker - Girls Soccer.

Senior All-Star recognition

Derek Schneider, Mattias Cordero, David Gorny, Michael DaSilva, Benjamin Kasko, Katrina Zhar, Virginia Rynkowski, Jaelynn Vivanco, Amanda Magee, Nicole Amoruso, Laurie Botsolas, Erin Buynie, and Peyton Territo.

The people who make a difference

2026-2027 GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

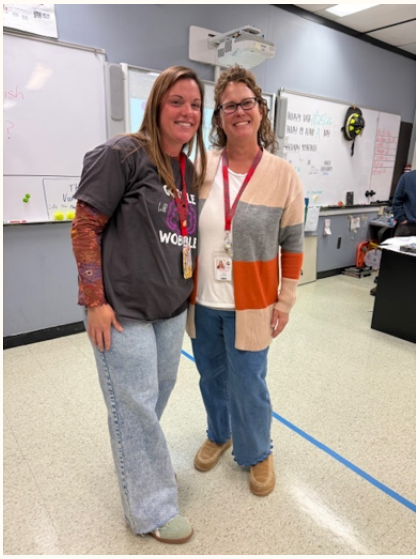
Jamie Haftek-Shopshear

Governor's Educator of the Year
Teacher of the Year

Jamie Haftek-Shopshear helps students build skills they can use at school, at home, and in their communities. In the CORE program, she plans lessons around individual learning needs and uses weekly community-based instruction to practice everyday tasks such as shopping, managing money, and ordering a meal.

Her work opens doors to participation. She collaborates with families and colleagues to help students take part in school events and advocates for accessible community spaces. Career visitors, local history experiences, and connections with veterans help her students see possibilities beyond the classroom.

Jamie also advises the freshman class, Unified Club, and SADD, and helps coach Unified Flag Football. Her student videos and service projects connect Lakeland with our sending schools and the wider community. The nominations highlighted her thoughtful preparation, strong relationships with families, and determination to make sure every student belongs.



Jamie Haftek-Shopshear (left) and Cindy Van Allen (right).

Cindy Van Allen

Educational Support Professional of the Year

Cindy Van Allen is a paraprofessional in the CORE and STEP programs whose steady, personal support helps students become more confident and independent. She learns students' interests, routines, and challenges, and notices when they need encouragement, reassurance, or a different approach.

Colleagues described a skilled partner who helps students move between tasks, responds calmly when frustration builds, and keeps looking for ways to help a student succeed. She welcomes new students, advocates for their needs, and readily steps into other roles when support is needed.

Cindy's care extends beyond her classroom. She attends school events, supports students across Lakeland, and has been involved in athletic parent programs. Her nominations emphasized her patience, compassion, and the daily consistency that helps students and families feel supported.

Giving thanks by giving back

Service, belonging, and student leadership across our three communities



Ringwood Hunger Walk



Unified Thanksgiving Gathering



CORE and SADD service

Giving back close to home

On November 1, Student Council, the girls soccer program, and Ms. Geyer joined the Ringwood Hunger Walk. The community raised thousands of dollars for the Center for Food Action to help neighbors facing food insecurity. A memorable contribution came from Reagan Geyer, a future Lancer who donated $16 from her piggy bank.

Students helping others

Service Club students organized a Thanksgiving food drive for the Center for Food Action and prepared stockings and cards for troops and veterans through Soldiers' Angels. SADD and CORE students collected hygiene products for a local women's shelter. DECA members collected around 1,000 pairs of socks for Strengthen Our Sisters.

Making room for everyone

The Unified Club brought students together for a Thanksgiving Gathering and invited the school community to add messages of gratitude to its Thankful Turkey. CORE and SADD students also created handmade tooth pouches for children in our sending schools. These projects give students practical ways to care for others.

Student voice and leadership

The Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee held its first meeting this fall. Students are helping identify representatives for the Board of Education and other committees and will contribute perspectives on issues such as artificial intelligence and student mental health.

More reasons to celebrate

Lakeland's FBLA chapter was again named a Champion Chapter in the Shaping Success competition season. DECA officers attended leadership training, and student clubs offered ways to connect through interests, service, and time together.

Student recognition

October Students of the Month: Elliot Fudge - Social Studies; Paige DeSpirito - Business; Mellany Diaz - CORE; Ava Radice - Student Council; and Jaelynn Vivanco - Girls Soccer. Congratulations to each of these students for their contributions to Lakeland.

Looking ahead together

Dates to remember in December and the new year

December 4	**Instant Decision Day** Media Center; senior appointments approximately 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact your counselor for details.
December 10	**Early dismissal for students** Afternoon professional development for staff.
December 14-18	**Winter Spirit Week** Watch student and family communications for themes and activities.
December 15	**FACILITIES PRESENTATION** At the Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m., Lecture Hall. Learn about proposed larger facilities projects. All community members are welcome.
December 16	**Winter Concert** Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. Come celebrate our student musicians.
December 18	**Winter Pep Rally** School celebration with participation from eighth graders from Haskell and Wanaque Schools and Ryerson Middle School.
December 23	**Early dismissal** Please plan ahead for transportation and family schedules.
December 24-January 3	**Winter recess** District closed. Happy New Year!

SEPAG COFFEE | SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2027

9:30 a.m. • LRHS Media Center • Reminders will be sent

Connect with other families, ask questions, and share perspectives about special education programs and supports. All families are welcome.

Stay connected and reach out

First-quarter report cards are in the Parent Portal. Review progress with your child and contact teachers or the school counselor with questions. Reach out early if attendance, learning, or well-being becomes a concern so we can work together.

Guidance and Counseling: 973-835-1900, ext. 124 or 123
Lakeland Regional High School: 205 Conklintown Road, Wanaque, NJ 07465
Live Feed **School Calendar** **UPAL Academies** **District Website**

Photos and school highlights: LRHS district updates and official Live Feed. Calendar details may be updated in school communications.