

"In Partnership for Quality Education"

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LAKE VIEWS

Fall 2007

Volume 31

Issue 2

#1 LHS 10th GRADERS TOP IN COUNTY

The recently released WASL scores showed Lakewood High School's 10th graders ranking among the top in the county. They scored number one overall in math, science, and writing, and while they ranked sixth in reading, they were less than one percentage point away from the top-scoring district in the county.

We also had twenty-four ninth grade students choose to take the assessment and their scores were fantastic as well with 95% proficient in reading, 71% proficient in writing and 80% proficient in math. These scores will be reflected in next year's scoring data.

This year's seniors is the first class that will have to graduate under the new Washington state requirements. They must pass the reading and writing WASL, and if they do not pass the math assessment, they must complete one of the approved alternatives. They must also develop a High School and Beyond Plan, earn at least 22.5 credits, and complete a Culminating Project in conjunction with completing all facets of the Cougar Path Program. If you have any questions about the graduation requirements please contact your student's school counselor.

STUDENT RECORDS

Lakewood School District takes very seriously its duty to protect student records and privacy. Student transcripts and other education-related records are protected by multiple security measures. Only those teachers, administrators, and other staff, who work directly with the student and have an educational need to know about the student, have access to individual student records. Staff members are expected to maintain confidentiality about information contained in a student's record.

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TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO BE A FOCUS



Elizabeth Zylstra instructing her students using the interactive whiteboard

The district is continuing the expansion of our Technology Competency Training Program. This staff development program includes three levels of instruction. The district currently has over 80 staff members who have successfully mastered Level 1. Level 1 focuses on basic technology skills, including Computer Operations, Beginning Word, Outlook and Internet Basics.

To date, ten staff members have moved on as Level 2 completers. Level 2 involves beginning the integration of technology into the classroom and includes training on imaging devices, various district software, advanced Word, and other productivity software.

Level 3 is only open to those staff members who have successfully completed Levels 1 and 2. Participants go through an application process and are selected based on set criteria. All Level 3 participants receive a complete Technology Equipment Packet for their classroom. This packet includes an interactive whiteboard, ceiling mounted LCD projector, document camera, and an audio enhancement system.

We currently have five staff (Elizabeth Davis, Bridget Getty, Amy Hendry, Nadine Roys, and Elizabeth Zylstra) going through Level 3 training. This training will focus on the integration of technology tools in teaching and learning and is led by LHS teacher Jon Nauert.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are a valuable resource in the education of your child. They will be held November 13-16th for students in grades K-8. During conferences, the teacher and parent/guardian have the opportunity to communicate valuable information that will help the student throughout his/her education. Parents, your active participation is essential! Working with your child's teacher is one of the first steps in helping your child achieve academic success. Communication between home and school is one of the best ways to ensure that your child's school experience is a successful one. Please refer to your child's school newsletter for more details on the times and process.

Some helpful tips for parent-teacher conferences are posted on the district website at www.lwsd.wednet.edu under **What's New**. Please review these before attending your child's conference to help you prepare to ask the questions that matter most to you.

School NCLB Reports

Our annual school report card information can be found inside on pages 3-7. The No Child Left Behind Act requires these reports for grades 3-8 & 10. They provide a detailed picture of how our schools are performing in the areas of literacy, reading, writing, and math. The reports use the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) as a measure of our students' performance.

All five of our schools also have School Improvement Plans (SIP). Many of the SIP plans reference the Measuring Academic Progress or MAP assessment which allows us to measure a student's growth in reading and math from fall to spring. It also provides us with detailed information about the skills our students have. We are using it to make sure all students are making progress. Our goal is to help all of our students meet the State's high academic standards. We are currently using MAP assessments in grades 2-9.

Further information can be found on OSPI's website at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.



School Times

Lakewood High School

7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Early Dismissal: 11:00 a.m.

Lakewood Middle School

7:35 a.m. - 2:05 p.m.

Early Dismissal: 11:05 a.m.

Cougar Creek Elementary

8:55 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.

Early Dismissal: 11:55 a.m.

English Crossing Elementary

8:50 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Early Dismissal: 11:50 a.m.

Lakewood Elementary School

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Early Dismissal: 12:00 p.m.

Where to Call

Administration Office

(360) 652-4500

Business & Human

Resource Office

(360) 654-2033

Lakewood High School

(360) 652-4505

Lakewood Middle School

(360) 652-4510

Cougar Creek Elementary

(360) 652-4517

English Crossing Elementary

(360) 652-4515

Lakewood Elementary School

(360) 652-4520

Operations Office

(360) 652-4503

Transportation Department

(360) 652-4525

Board of Directors

The Lakewood School Board meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Lakewood High School Library.

Greg Jensen, President

(360) 652-2769

Oscar Escalante, Vice President

(360) 658-9502

Jill Leonard, Legislative Rep.

(360) 652-0305

Ken Christiansen, Member

(360) 652-3091

Ellen Phillips, Member

(360) 652-6264

Larry Francois, Superintendent

(360) 652-4500

We welcome your input and involvement, please call anytime.

The district office hours are:
Monday-Friday ~ 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Web site: www.lwsd.wednet.edu

The Lakewood School District is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer. Lakewood School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, or qualified individuals with disabilities. Applications from all groups are encouraged. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Officer and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Dr. Dennis Hadcock, Assistant Superintendent, 17110-16th Dr. NE, Marysville, WA 98271, 360-652-4500.

Superintendent's Message

"In Partnership for Quality Education"

Dear Lakewood Community,

Over the past 10 years, we have become used to the start of school coinciding with the release of scores from the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, the WASL. This addition of Lakeviews highlights our students' performance on the WASL from last spring and WASL trend data for the past few years. Our assessment results are also shown in comparison to those at the state level.

Student achievement is our number one goal and mission as a school district. Our scores from last spring's WASL tests show that we are continuing to make good progress in most areas and grade levels. As a district, we have much to celebrate including the top 10th grade scores in math, science, and writing of all Snohomish County school districts. Lakewood 10th graders were also within one percentage point of scoring highest in the county in reading. Lakewood's 7th graders also scored well in all tested areas compared to other county school districts and the state as a whole. But many challenges remain, particularly at the elementary levels and in math and science. Across our district, we will continue to work hard to improve achievement for all students.

Our ability to provide high quality learning opportunities for all students relies in large part on stable and consistent funding. This year, there will be two elections of great importance for the funding of our schools. The first will occur in the general election November 6. Voters will be asked to consider a change to the Washington State Constitution which would allow school levies to pass with a simple majority (50% + 1) rather than the current 60% supermajority requirement. Below is a fact sheet about this measure, EHJR 4204. I encourage you to learn about EHJR 4204 and cast an informed vote in November.

The second important election for our schools will occur in February. At that time, Lakewood voters will be asked to consider a Replacement School Programs and Operations Levy. This will be an election to renew and replace the current levy which runs out at the end of 2008 and provides 18% of our day-to-day operating revenue. Our community will also be asked at that time to consider a Technology Levy which would fund classroom instructional technology and related infrastructure, security, staff training, and support. More information on these proposed levies will be provided in the coming months.

We are fortunate in Lakewood to enjoy a strong partnership with our community in providing a quality education for the young people we serve. I hope that you spend the time to carefully review the information in this edition of Lakeviews. I encourage you to contact our schools or the district office if you have any questions or suggestions.

Truly,

Larry

Larry Francois

Superintendent

FACT SHEET

(EHJR 4204) – The Simple Majority for School Levies Constitutional Amendment On the November 6, 2007 General Election Ballot

- **What is the supermajority requirement?** The Washington State Constitution requires that voters approve all school district levies and bonds by a "supermajority" of 60 percent.
- **Does the supermajority apply to all elections?** No. Most other electoral decisions require only a simple majority (50% + 1) to pass. Elections to fund items such as roads and stadiums can be passed with a simple majority.
- **When and why was the supermajority requirements put into the Constitution?** It was put into the State Constitution in 1944. The country was emerging from the Great Depression and World War II. It was a period of economic uncertainty and property tax anxiety. Over 2,000 school districts existed and voters were often confused about school district boundaries and school elections - hence the term "stealth elections." Property owners feared that increases in property taxes would be passed by non-property owners resulting in a higher tax burden for them or even the loss of their home or farm.
- **What is different now?** There are many more property owners and property tax exemptions exist for people with disabilities and low-income seniors. Over 2,000 school districts have been consolidated to 295 school districts with clear boundaries. Media coverage and advanced technologies make school elections highly visible. It is not possible to hold a "stealth election." In 38 of 39 counties (including Snohomish) all registered voters are mailed a ballot for each election.
- **What would EHJR 4204 do?** Currently school levies must receive a 60 percent supermajority approval to pass. EHJR 4204 would amend the Washington State Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) to approve maintenance and operation, capital, and transportation levies.
- **Would EHJR 4204 apply to bond elections as well?** It would NOT apply to school bond elections. Bond elections would still require the 60% supermajority.
- **Would EHJR increase the levy amount school districts can collect?** No. Current law puts a limit on school district levy collections (called a "levy lid"). EHJR 4204 would not change the "levy lid".
- **What percentage of a school district's revenue comes from the local levy?** School districts receive an average of 17% of their funding from local levies (18% in Lakewood).
- **What happens when school districts do not pass a levy?** School districts can run a levy twice in a calendar year. When a levy does not pass on the second try (called a "double levy failure"), the district must make budget cuts, layoff teachers and support staff, and reduce or eliminate programs and services. School districts must pay for the costs of levy elections. Second elections cost additional money which would otherwise be available for educational programs.
- **How can the Washington State Constitution be changed?** First, two thirds of the House and two thirds of the Senate have to pass a joint Resolution putting the constitutional amendment on the ballot. Then a simple majority of voters must approve the measure in a statewide election. The Washington State Legislature passed EHJR 4204 - the Simple Majority for school levies constitutional amendment - on April 12, 2007. It will be on the November 6, 2007 general election ballot.

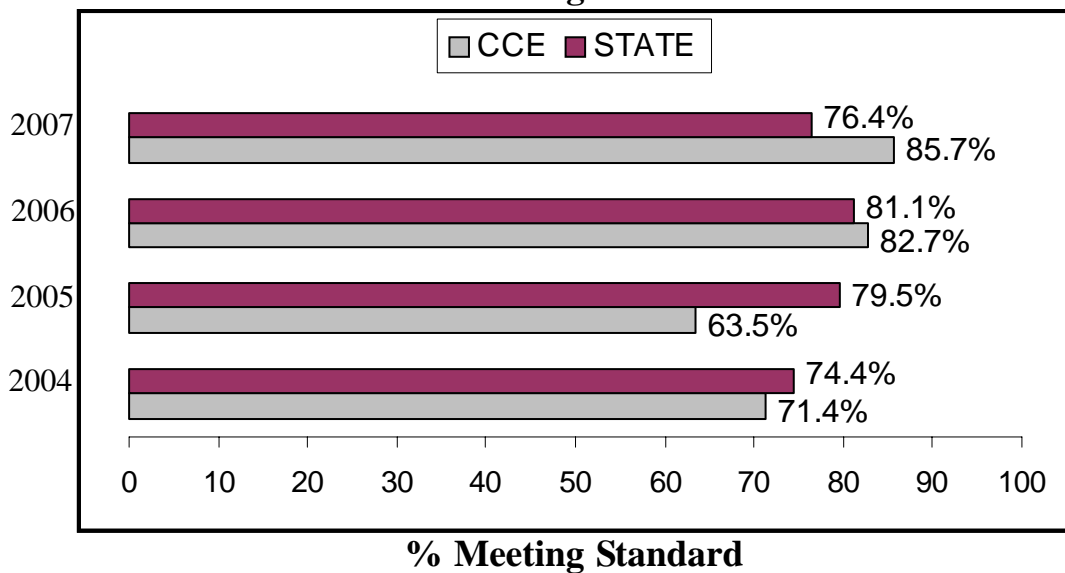
No Child Left Behind Report Card Cougar Creek Elementary 3-5th Grades

Cougar Creek Elementary School Improvement Goals for 2006-07:

- To increase the number of students meeting the reading standard on the fourth grade WASL from 82.7% to 85.7% by June 2007.
- To increase the number of students meeting the math standard on the fourth grade WASL from 58.7% to 63.7% by June 2007.

PLEASE SEE OSPI WEBSITE AT <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WASL/default.aspx> FOR COMPLETE WASL RESULTS.

CCE 4th Grade Reading WASL Scores Vs. State



Cougar Creek Elementary School staff continues to work hard to improve instruction aimed at increasing student achievement.

Strategies for improving reading achievement at CCE include:

- Administering the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy (DIBELS) to all students three times per year. Students who score in the "at risk" category are given intensive instruction and progress is monitored frequently.
- Grouping students for small group skills instruction based on assessment data of individual strengths and weaknesses.
- Frequent use of comprehension strategies such as predicting, summarizing, and questioning to encourage higher level thinking skills.

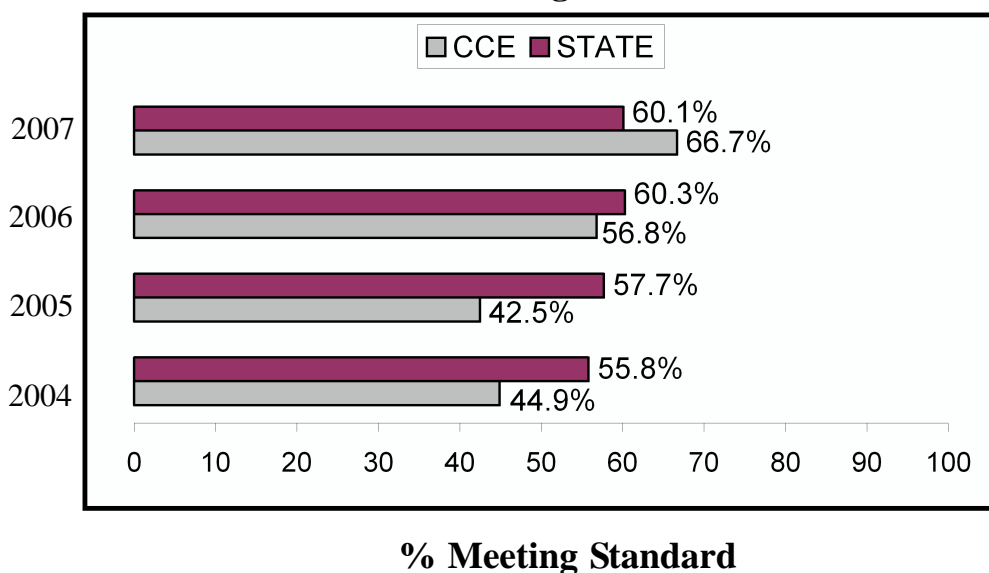
CCE 4th Grade Math WASL Scores Vs. State

Strategies for improving math achievement include:

- Partnering with the University of Washington Math Department along with the other elementary schools to provide focused, job embedded professional development and on-going support of instruction.
- Use of math journals to increase student problem solving and communication skills.
- Grouping students for small group skill instruction based on assessment data of individual student strengths and weaknesses.

% Meeting Standard

CCE 4th Grade Writing WASL Scores Vs. State



A number of programs are offered for students who are not meeting standard. These include:

- Title I Reading
- Learning Assistance Program (LAP) for math
- Before School Cougar Academy
- ELL (English Language Learners) Instruction