

Today's Pulse
12/24/17

The generosity of the Lakota family is amazing. It doesn't start and stop in December, but can be found year-round in our schools and our community. This month, the Lakota community has been encouraged to share their acts of service through social media using the hashtag LakotaGivesBack. During this month of giving, our students have been actively involved in helping others, both in our community and beyond, as well as each other.

Some of our youngest learners at Creekside ECS were encouraged to donate needed items like toothbrushes, cleaning supplies, shampoo, socks and gloves. The entire student body joined together during a sharing assembly to celebrate what they had collected to help families in their community and talk about the importance of giving back.

Adena Elementary students and staff have a long-standing tradition to combine a collection of non-perishable food items for Reach Out Lakota, as well as items like hats, gloves and toys that are ultimately distributed to needy families in their own Adena community.

Students at Ridge Junior School participated in Pennies for Patients to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. By donating money to the cause, students were able to help kids fighting cancer and also participate in several activities at the school. The students and staff exceeded their goal of collecting \$1,000 for the organization.

Students from Lakota West High School in Marian Weber's English 12 World Literature & Composition class created personalized and holiday-themed books to give to second graders at Heritage Elementary School. The older students hand-delivered the books to their young partners, sharing with them the importance of reading as a base for lifelong learning.

Ninth grade honors English students at Lakota East combined a research project with community service. The students were responsible for volunteering a minimum of five hours with an organization in our community. Afterwards, reflection sheets were completed and the students presented to their classmates about their experiences.

This fall, we introduced our first Casual for a Cause campaign to our Lakota employees. If they chose to contribute, a payroll deduction in an amount of their choosing was applied to the Casual for a Cause account, which would then be divided among four organizations that help our community: Butler County United Way, Caring Community Collaborative, the Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty and Reach Out Lakota. In our inaugural year, we were able to raise over \$25,000 for these great organizations.

As a way to preserve the memory of the original Union Elementary School, which was demolished in August 2016 per a collaboration agreement negotiated between Lakota and the

Boys & Girls Club of West Chester Liberty, a boy scout from Troop 914 has dedicated his Eagle Scout project to the cause. Michael Dame is using bricks from the original structure to build a memorial wall in front of the current Union Elementary. As a way of providing financial support for his project, residents are invited to purchase an engraved brick to become a part of the structure.

Bricks can be purchased for \$20. Order forms can be found on our website, www.lakotaonline.com and are due no later than Wednesday Jan. 10. Michael is also seeking support in the form of volunteers and both monetary and in-kind donations to help construct the memorial.

Matthew Miller is the superintendent of Lakota Local Schools. Follow him on Twitter (@LakotaSuper), Facebook (Matt Miller – Lakota Local Schools Superintendent) and Instagram (lakotasuper).