

FEBRUARY 2010

# Communities In Schools of Lakewood

HELPING KIDS PREPARE FOR LIFE.

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## CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH BREAKFAST *Making A Difference In Lakewood* "On the Road to Student Success"

On Wednesday, March 24, Communities in Schools of Lakewood (CISL) hosts its 8th annual Champions for Youth Breakfast showcasing the After-School, Champions Mentor and Readiness To Learn programs that are impacting over 1,500 kids and parents in Lakewood. Something new this year -- several high school youth will talk about their struggles and accomplishments as they navigate the "road to student success." The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet in Lakewood Towne Center.

Erin Jones, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, shared her amazing story last year and is excited to return this year to facilitate our youth panel and share information about programs and strategies that are helping young people succeed and graduate on time. We are honored to have former Lakewood Police Chief, Larry Saunders, emcee the event this year. The Clover Park High School Steel Drum Band will provide entertainment.

Tickets for the Champions for Youth Breakfast can be purchased for \$50. All funds go toward Clover Park After-School programs, the Readiness to Learn program led by Diane Formoso, and the Champions Mentor program.

To make reservations or for additional information, contact Christina at CISL at 589-7489, kidsandfamilies@cislakewood.org, or visit our website at www.lakewood.ciswa.org. Corporate tables are available.



# CHAMPIONS Mentors

**C** Caring  
**H** Helping  
**A** Adults  
**M** Mentoring  
**P** Proudly  
**I** In  
**O** Our  
**N** Neighborhoods &  
**S** Schools

## Amazing Mentors at Lochburn

Mentoring has become a strong focus at Lochburn. There are currently 15 Lochburn students meeting with a mentor and that number is expected to grow to 20 by the end of the school year. The Lochburn staff have created a caring environment where mentoring is encouraged and highly regarded. CISL especially thanks Rachael LeRoy, the Family Involvement Coordinator, who works diligently in referring students and in supporting our mentors.



*"I like mentoring because it's someone to talk to, to hang out with and you get to have fun and learn new things from them!"* - Mary, Jayme's Mentee

### Jayme and Mary

*I have always wanted to volunteer my time to help students, but I didn't know where to start until a co-worker told me about the mentoring program through Communities in Schools of Lakewood (CISL). Getting started was simple—I filled out some paper work, and underwent a background check. A few weeks later I learned that I would be working with a middle-schooler named Mary at Lochburn. I committed to meeting with Mary for one hour a week during a time that didn't interfere with her class schedule or my work schedule.*

*The first time I met Mary we were both a little nervous. I introduced myself and explained that I worked for the school district and also attended Lochburn—although it was a junior high at that time. That peaked Mary's interest and she shared that her aunt had attended Lochburn as well. It turned out we were friends growing up and I had spent some time with Mary when she was little. What a small world!*

*Each week Mary and I met to talk about successes and challenges, set goals, work on art projects, play board games and discuss books and television shows. Mary started the year as a quiet and shy little girl and I had the opportunity to watch her grow into a more confident and opinionated young lady. She even took on her fear of public speaking by volunteering to lead and narrate a group social studies project which led to a big improvement in her class participation grades.*

*I am excited to continue meeting with Mary. I encourage others to get involved in this great program. It doesn't take much to positively impact a child—and positively impact yourself too.*

*-Jayme Taylor*

## New Match, Big Impact

One of our newest matches has already had a big impact. Maggie Baker just started mentoring Suzie in January. Suzie was having some behavior issues in school and her grades were not good enough to try out for the Lochburn soccer team. In just a few weeks, Maggie has helped Suzie raise a failing grade to a C (and still rising) which now has made Suzie eligible for the soccer team. School staff have also noticed Suzie having a better attitude toward school. All this in just a month!

## A Mentee's Mother Speaks Out

My daughter at Custer Elementary enjoys having a mentor. Since being assigned to one this year, her grades have increased dramatically and she looks forward to going to school...especially on the days she know she will be meeting with her mentor. I believe it is a great thing for her to have an adult other than a family member or a friend that she can talk to. I can truly see the difference it has made for her. Thank you so much for the support that CISL provides our children!

NOTE: This girl is fortunate to have Tami Green (State Representative for the 28th District, Lakewood) as her mentor!

To mentor in a Clover Park school, contact  
Doug Baxter or Dave O'Keeffe at **589-7489**  
or download an application from our website:  
**www.lakewood.ciswa.org**

# 100+ Involved in After-School Activities at Lochburn Middle School

-Dalemeshia Brewer, CISL Site Coordinator

The Lochburn After-School Homework and Tutoring program is

joined the Chess Club and Leo's Service Club. We are fortunate to have six



in full swing. Over 70 students are working hard to get up to grade level by engaging with teachers and volunteer tutors after school. An additional 30 students have

engaging teachers, three paras, and fifteen dynamic volunteers in the program. GEAR UP has been an awesome partner by providing daily snacks and college tutors.

## After-School Programs Boosting Math Scores

Tyee Park and Oakwood have finished mid-year math testing of their after-school students. Christina Villena, Site Coordinator at Oakwood, writes: "Since October 2009, eighteen of our thirty-three students advanced from intensive below grade level (0-17 correct) to strategic intervention at grade level (18-23 correct). The remaining fifteen have progressed from below grade level to grade level and continue to improve every day."

Stephany Brown, lead teacher at Tyee Park, writes: "In October 2009, all of the students tested below grade level. According to our January testing data, 88% of our targeted fourth grade students made progress and 76% of our targeted fifth graders made progress. Our success is attributed to focused, intentional instruction and best practice strategies. I am very proud of the continual progress we are making."

Mrs. Church, who teaches in a Homework Club room, was quoted as saying, "Students who come regularly to the After-School Homework Club are seeing their grades improve. They understand the math concepts we work on every day, and they are getting it!" This is why we are all here, to support and teach these students math skills above and beyond their level of math proficiency.

Lochburn teachers, Elizabeth Davis and Rebecca Mitchell, write: "After-school hours are a critical time for our youth. That time can represent either an opportunity to learn and grow or a time of

risk to youth's health and safety. Our After-school programs increase rigor in math, put youth into contact with caring adults from the community, and teach life skills that lead to healthy choices and successful careers."

## Stresses and Successes at Evergreen Elementary

One of the Evergreen Elementary teachers commented recently that 17 out of her 20 after-school students had a parent who was deployed. Even amidst the stress of separation, students are making academic gains. Tammy Perrine noted in her January after-school report, "We have had such great success this year. We have already exited 10 students who have reached grade level in math and have other students who have reached "aha" moments as the math concepts sink in."

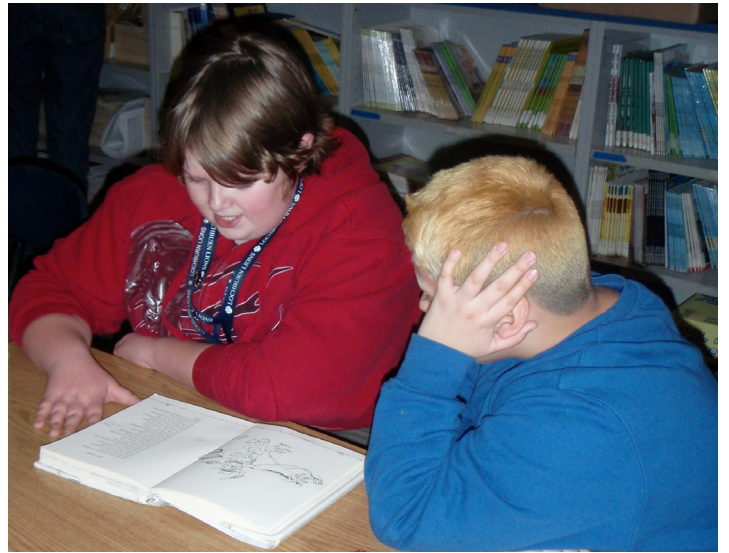


*Communities In Schools of Lakewood is keeping Lakewood's Promise.*

## Youth Give Back to the Community

CISL collaborates with Lakewood First Lions Club to run the Leo's Service Club at Lochburn Middle School. Last month, 18 Leo's went to Oakwood Elementary to read to students in the After-School Program. They paired up and read poems by Shel Silverstein, which put a smile on every face! Each student was able to select a book to read back to their Leo's partner and then take it home for keeps. The goal of the project was to inspire a love of reading and to exercise public speaking skills.

Leo's members also made a big impact on their own school by creating and sending "Affirmation Cards" to all 52 staff at the school. These kinds of activities are building life and leadership skills that will pay off big time in the future.



## Funders in the Spotlight

**Franciscan Foundation** has supported the work of CISL for many years. In January, they contributed \$2,000, and wrote the following in their announcement letter: "Our grants committee was unanimous in its support of your program and has great respect for the work that you do." CISL, likewise, appreciates the impact St. Clare Hospital has in Lakewood and their mission "to create healthier communities and ensure the availability of quality health care for all, regardless of ability to pay." You can learn more about them at [www.fhshealth.org](http://www.fhshealth.org).

**Sound Banking** also contributes to CISL on a regular basis. In December we received the following letter from Daniel Cook, a board member of Sound Banking, and dentist with Pediatric Dental Associates: "It has always been a Christmas tradition at Sound Banking Company for its board of directors to send their favorite Charitable Institution a check to contribute to the organization's mission. Enclosed is a check for \$500. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."



The mission of Communities in Schools is promoting readiness to learn and success in life for our children through a network of parents, volunteers and community organizations working together and focused at school sites.

## REMEMBER

### Champions for Youth Breakfast

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

7 to 8:30 a.m.

Old Country Buffet

Lakewood Towne Center

RSVP 253-589-7489

[kidsandfamilies@cislakewood.org](mailto:kidsandfamilies@cislakewood.org)