

## C.R.E.S.T.

Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas

A continuous improvement document sponsored by the Texas School Counselors Association  
Lakewood Elementary

A National Blue Ribbon School and Texas Education Agency “Exemplary” School

3000 Hillbrook St., Dallas, TX 75214 • Office (972)749-7300 • Fax (972)749-7301

2009-2010 • Dallas Independent School District

Principal: Michelle Thompson email: michthompson@dallasisd.org

Counselor: Lydia Dickson email: ldickson@dallasisd.org

Enrollment: 680 • Grades: Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup>

### Principal’s Comments

We begin our mornings with our school motto and vision “Lakewood is a school dedicated to academic excellence, mutual respect, and life-long learning.” That daily affirmation is echoed in our campus mission statement. Lakewood Elementary’s mission, “To prepare Lakewood Elementary students to become self-motivated problem solvers through the setting and modeling of high standards,” is reflected daily throughout our school community. Our high standards not only reflect the academic expectations of students and staff, but also include high standards for personal responsibility, behavior, and working as a community of learners. Supporting the mission, the Campus Improvement Plan is developed by several campus leadership teams interwoven to serve the needs of each student. Realizing that academic success is a combination of a challenging curriculum, a nurturing environment, and a foundation of life-long values, including character development, effort, and community relationships, each campus leadership team serves as a focal point to ensure all elements are present.

Lakewood’s Student Support Team (SST) works collaboratively with parents, teachers, counselor, nurse, and campus administrators to support an added value education for the “whole child” by recognizing a child’s individual strengths and needs. Parent and community mentors work with students to nurture effort-based learning through tutoring, mentoring, coaching, and providing a listening ear as students develop problem-solving skills and a love of learning. Curriculum & Instruction Team (CILT) includes teachers from all grade levels, special programs, counselor, and campus administrators working together to ensure a rigorous curriculum is available for all students and taught in a safe and nurturing environment. With each leadership piece, our counselor provides guidance, perspective, and a reminder of our mission and vision for each child.

### Student Support Team

The Student Support Team is a group of educators who meet weekly to improve and ensure student achievement. The team is comprised of professionals with a wide range of experiences in the field of education. The school counselor leads the team in planning, coordinating, and implementing strategies to ensure that every student is successful academically, emotionally, and behaviorally. Student progress is reviewed frequently by the SST, grade level team(s), and student’s parents to make sure that students are reaching their goals. The Response to Intervention (RTI) model is a major component of SST decisions. The team collects information from the teachers and parents as well as student data including standardized testing and RTI results to make recommendations and growth plans for individual students.

SST Member	Position	Years of Experience	Qualification
Lydia Dickson	Counselor	10	M.Ed. (Counseling Education)
Michelle Thompson	Principal	21	M.Ed. (Education Administration)
Cynthia Burley	Assistant Principal	15	M.Ed. (Education Administration)
Ashley Bull	School Nurse	17	R.N. (Registered Nurse)
Anne Caldwell	Fourth Grade Teacher	30	B.A. (Education)
Kathy Luedecke	Second Grade Teacher	15	B.A. (Education)
Kelli McIllyar	First Grade Teacher	17	B.A. (Business)
Terry Schill	Special Education Teacher	21	M.Ed. (Reading)
Jamie Masters	Dyslexia Designee	9	B.S. (Psychology)
Erin Beckner	Speech Therapist	4	M.S. in Communication Disorders (Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist)
Carolyn Pruet	Diagnostician	30	M.Ed. (Licensed Diagnostician)
Veva Lane	License Specialist in School Psychology	34	LSSP (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology)

### Major Achievements

The SST plays a primary role in helping Lakewood reach its goals for academic success for every student while providing a safe learning environment. The SST supports these goals and subsequent achievements by ensuring that every child is making progress and having value added by receiving academic support and interventions within the class. Teachers provide interventions for students before, during, and after school, in addition to parent involvement as tutors and mentors. Our school tutoring and mentoring program is provided for students with identified academic needs. Mentors and tutors assist in keeping students focused on their personal goals and providing added support and encouragement. Small group instruction, tiered activities, peer mentoring and cooperative learning are also used during the school day to improve student performance. Quality teachers use these instructional methods to create a safe learning environment for motivated students who excel in critical thinking and problem-solving.

Awards include the following:

- Texas Education Agency (TEA) “Exemplary” School – 2009, TEA “Recognized School” – 2002-2008
- U.S. Department No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School – 2008
- Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll School (TBEC) – 2008, 2009
- Excellence in Character Award from the Character Coalition of North Texas – 2006, 2007

**Measurements**

Assessment is a key component used to ensure that our students continually succeed and our campus achievement grows each year. Every school year, staff development hours are spent reviewing assessment results and creating ways to improve all areas. This analysis guides our Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) for the school year. Teacher, parent and student surveys from the beginning and end of each year help us further enhance areas of strength and plan improvement in areas of weakness. Additional academic benchmark and diagnostic assessments keep teachers informed and up to date about specific areas in which students are struggling as a grade level, class, or as individuals. The SST meets weekly with parents to review academic and behavioral assessment data and to formulate interventions to address individual student’s academic, behavioral, or emotional concerns.

**Academic Assessments:** Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS), Texas Primary Reading Inventory (TPRI), Tejas Lee (reading inventory), DISD Benchmarks, Woodcock-Munoz (language dominance and proficiency), Dyslexia Screenings, Special Education Evaluations

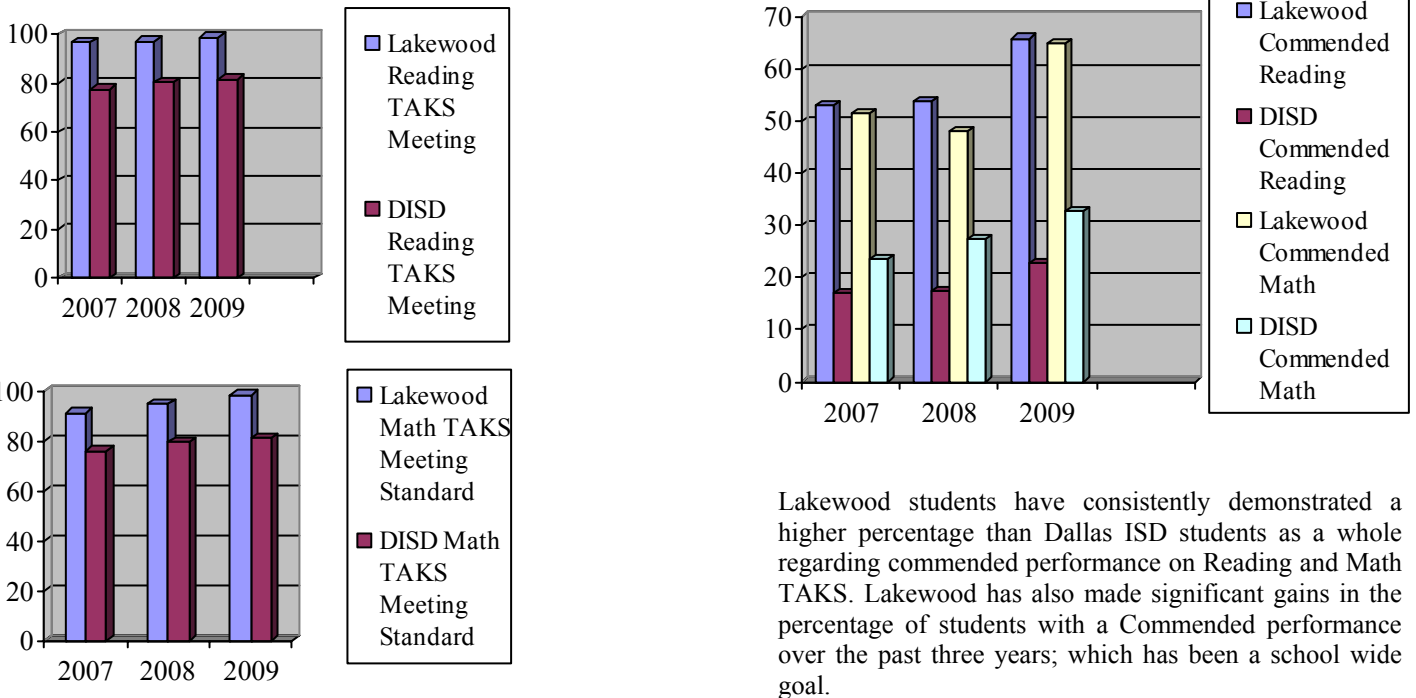
**Career Assessments:** Interest Inventory, The Character and Career Connection

**Personal/Social:** Health screenings, teacher surveys, parent surveys, student surveys, Achenbach Teacher Report (student behavior), Connors Survey (student screening) Universal Screening Instrument, Counseling Program Needs Assessment

**Student Results**

The key focus of the SST is that every student is receiving added value in school every year. These gains involve academic, career, and personal/social development as outlined by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Model. Academic gains are measured by National and State assessments including TAKS, ITBS/Logromos, TPRI, TELPAS, and DISD Benchmarks. The ASCA National Model specifies career development and personal/social development goals including interpersonal skills, leadership skills, goal-setting, and character traits that are reinforced throughout our school. The SST works collaboratively with faculty and parents to identify appropriate programs and interventions for individual students as well as identifying group trends in various student groups. Lakewood Elementary has consistently received the TEA “Recognized” School designation for seven consecutive years and in 2009 was named a TEA “Exemplary” School.

**TAKS 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading/Math Results**



Lakewood students have consistently demonstrated a higher percentage than Dallas ISD students as a whole regarding commended performance on Reading and Math TAKS. Lakewood has also made significant gains in the percentage of students with a Commended performance over the past three years; which has been a school wide goal.

Lakewood students have consistently higher passing rates for TAKS mastery in Reading and Math than Dallas ISD students as a whole.

## School Climate and Safety

Along with curricular and academic expectations for our students, Lakewood’s mission is to foster lifelong learners, problem-solvers, and productive citizens. The SST achieves this goal through our guidance counseling program and school-wide programs such as Character Counts and Leader in Me. Character Counts focuses on six main character traits – trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, and citizenship. From the actions and words of the staff and children to the character posters throughout the building, it can be observed that character education is strongly promoted at Lakewood. The SST, administrators, teachers, and school counselor work together to embed character education into daily instruction and school climate at Lakewood Elementary.

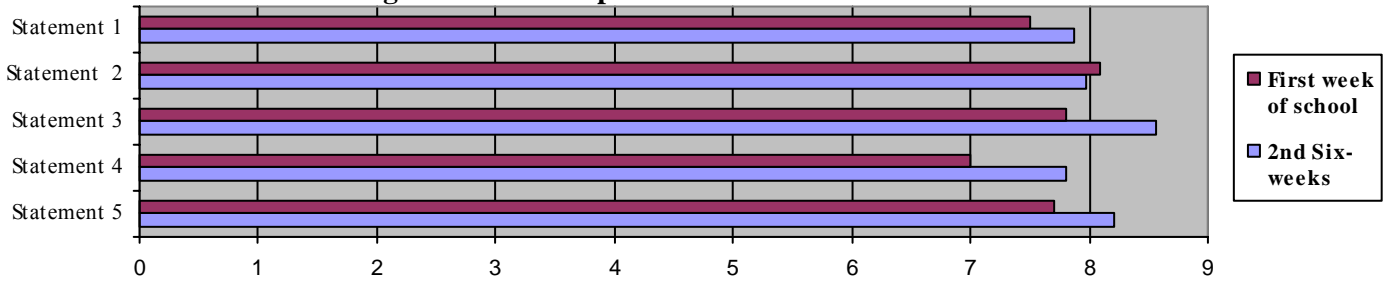
This year Lakewood has also implemented the Leader in Me program to help our students learn skills to be leaders and problem-solvers. Leader in Me is not a separate program but rather an approach for teachers and students in dealing with choices and opportunities. Leader in Me seeks to teach elementary students skills and habits to be effective leaders and problem-solvers that are based upon Stephen Covey’s Seven Habits of Effective People.

Another component of character education is providing our students with conflict resolution skills and bully prevention through guidance lessons in every class throughout the year. The We Help Ourselves (WHO) Safety program is presented to all students. Working It Out and Bully Free Classroom are two additional resources used by SST to help foster interpersonal skills regarding communication, identifying emotions and conflict-resolution. Counseling groups and individual counseling is also available for students that need more specific help with prevention skills regarding violence, anger and decision-making.

Our school safety and crisis management team prepares and maintains the Campus Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP). The safety and crisis management team is also responsible for training the staff and students for the event of an emergency. The preparation and awareness of the school safety and crisis management team strengthens the school climate and safety.

In support of our school’s mission, Lakewood’s numerous after-school programs focus on prevention of violence and development of social skills by fostering responsibility, acceptance and respect for others, interpersonal skills, fairness, and citizenship. Some of our programs include math/science team, Green Team (recycling club), Choir, various sports clubs, garden club, student council, Math Maniacs (math enrichment led by father volunteers), and Stallion Scoop (online newspaper). The Lakewood community understands, believes, and supports the importance of learning and practicing good character. Ultimately, the mission for Lakewood is to nurture our students to develop into successful leaders both academically and as citizens of a global community.

**Student Self-Ratings for Leadership Skills**



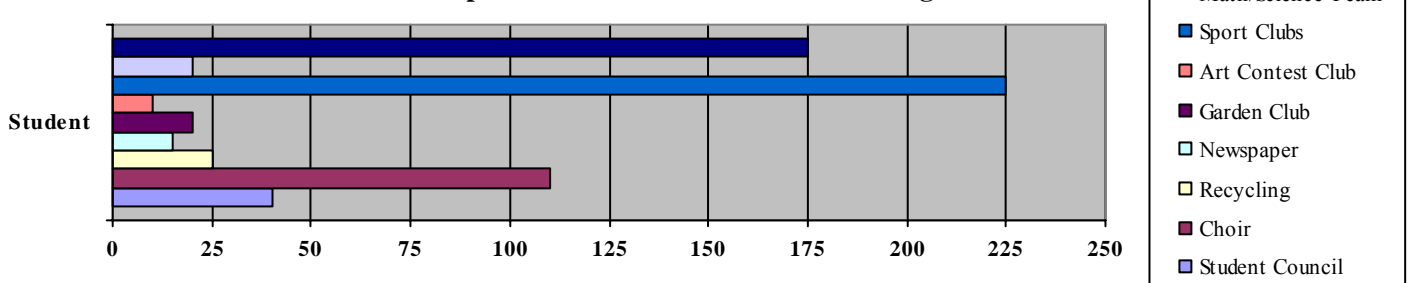
\* Statements represented in the graph are explained below

This graph represents 5<sup>th</sup> grade student responses to questions dealing with habits from Leader in Me. Each question is on a ten-point Likert scale with 1 being if the item is never true and 10 if it is always true. The students rated themselves the first week of school and again during the second six-weeks. The student self-ratings have increased on four out of five of the statements indicating that leadership habits are developing in the students. The students will have another chance to answer these questions regarding their leadership habits in the spring semester of 2010.

### \* Student Survey Statements

1. I take responsibility for my mistakes.
2. I take care of important things first and then have fun time.
3. I get along with others, even people who are different from me.
4. When I have a problem with someone, we try to work together.
5. I listen to others without interrupting.

**2009-10 Student Participants in After-School Prevention Programs**



After-school prevention program are very active at Lakewood. The table above represents the number of students that participate in each program. In all, 640 students participate in at least one after-school prevention program.

## **Community Partnerships/Resources**

Community partnerships are a critical component to Lakewood's success in developing students who are lifelong learners, problem-solvers, and future leaders. The SST helps coordinate and support various community partnerships within our school. Community partnerships are an effective and essential way to bridge community support to our school and encourage our students to discover more about our local and global community.

**Academic:** Southern Methodist University (SMU) Student-Work Program Tutors, Arts Partners, SMU Student Teacher and Counseling Intern Program, Texas Bluebonnet Book Award, Site Based Decision Making (SBDM) Team, Lakewood Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Counseling Advisory Committee, Lakewood Early Childhood Parent Teacher Association (LECPTA), Friends of Lakewood, School Tours of America sponsored 5<sup>th</sup> Washington D.C. Trip

**Career:** Career Day, Jr. Achievement, Science Fair, Enterprise City, SMU Law Program, Arts Partners, Lakewood PTA

**Personal/Social:** Youth and Family Centers, LECPTA, Friends of Lakewood, Lakewood Afterschool Program, Lakewood PTA

## **Volunteer Involvement**

Lakewood Elementary has a strong tradition of community and parent volunteers. Based on school needs, volunteers are recruited yearly for various opportunities to enrich students' lives academically and socially. Each year close to 10,000 volunteer hours are accrued for Lakewood. Several volunteer organizations spearhead these efforts including the PTA, Friends of Lakewood (Dad's Club), and Early Childhood Parent Teacher Organization (ECPTA). The PTA members volunteer by supporting various aspects of our school from tutoring, mentoring, helping in the cafeteria, running the monthly Stallion Incentive Store, working during two Library Book Fairs, coordinating two school carnivals, and as room parents. The Friends of Lakewood also support our school by coordinating the before school Math Maniacs program, maintaining the Lakewood Outdoor Learning Area and raising funds for various special projects each year like remodeling the school computer and science labs. The ECPTA holds an annual fundraiser for our school that raises funds in excess of \$100,000 dollars for our school. Each spring the faculty can apply for a portion of these funds to go towards classroom supplies, special programs and curriculum. In addition to the ECPTA, the PTA provides fiscal support for school programs including a substantial yearly budget for the counseling program. Community members also volunteer their time and skills as mentors as well as Career Day speakers. Last year there were over 50 volunteers for Career Day. We also have a partnership with students from a local university that provides our campus with a targeted tutoring program to enhance student achievement. All of this volunteer support helps our school meet its yearly campus goals. We always welcome anyone interested in becoming a Lakewood volunteer to contact our school counselor, Lydia Dickson at 972-749-7306 or [ldickson@dallasisd.org](mailto:ldickson@dallasisd.org).

## **Focus for Improvement**

Lakewood Elementary is guided by the goals of our Campus Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is formed primarily by our CILT by reviewing last year's standardized test data and information collected from parent and staff surveys. Our SST and parent/teacher organizations such as SBDM and PTA help our campus review, revise, and promote the Campus Improvement Plan. SBDM and PTA designate one meeting of the year to review the school's state assessment results and the principal gives frequent status reports on progress towards our goals. A commitment to increasing the Commended Performance to ensure college or workforce readiness guides our Campus Improvement Plan and campus decisions. All of our school goals are driven by our dedication to academic excellence.

Goal 1: Added value for every student every year (as measured by TAKS, ITBS/Logromos, TPRI, TELPAS, benchmarks)

Goal 2: 100% of all Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students above the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile

Goal 3: 80% of all Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile

Goal 4: 100% of all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students achieve "Met Standard" on each TAKS assessment taken

Goal 5: 75% of all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students achieve "Commended" on each TAKS assessment taken

## **Keeping You Informed**

Lakewood Elementary places a high priority on communication with students, parents and beyond to the community. SST helps support communication about school programs, events and special opportunities throughout the year. If families need information translated into Spanish or a Spanish translator present during a meeting this is provided to them. Teachers and parents communicate informally on a daily and weekly basis as well as during structured activities helping school and parent relationships develop into partnerships. For further information or questions please contact Lydia Dickson, school counselor at [ldickson@dallasisd.org](mailto:ldickson@dallasisd.org) or 972-749-7306.

**Personal Contact:** CILT Meetings, Grade Level Meetings, Faculty Meetings, Daily School-wide Announcements, PTA Meetings, PTA Board Meetings, SBDM Meetings, Meet the Teacher Night, Parent Conference Nights, Popsicles in the Park (Kindergarten Orientation), Last Friday Parent Connection Meetings (various topics facilitated by school counselor), Family Movie Night, Family Education Night, Kindergarten Round-Up, 6th Grade Orientation and Middle School Visit

**Electronic Contact:** automatic phone messenger, school PTA website with weekly update emails to registered users

([www.lakewoodelementary.net](http://www.lakewoodelementary.net)), fax, email

**Print Contact:** DISD Student Handbook, Students' Thursday Take Home Folders, yearly school calendar, weekly and monthly parent newsletters (Lakewood Links and Stallion Stampede), grade level newsletters, bulletin boards, outdoor marquee, special event flyers, progress reports every three weeks, Lakewood Elementary Yearbook

Lakewood Elementary  
3000 Hillbrook St.  
Dallas, TX 75214

November 10, 2009

TSCA executive Board/CREST  
Texas School Counselor Association  
1204 East San Antonio St.  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear TSCA Executive Board:

I am respectfully submitting a CREST application for Lakewood Elementary. Our Student Support Team worked collaboratively to collect and compose the information presented in the CREST application. Information was collected with the help of our grade-level teams, Campus Instructional Leadership Team, and our school administrators. Every section of the CREST application was also given a final review by both school administrators and the Guidance Advisory Committee. We plan to distribute our CREST document to major stakeholders in the school including our faculty and parents. This process has been very enlightening to our SST team regarding the systems and programs we have in place on our campus. We hope this submission also helps you to learn more about Lakewood Elementary.

Sincerely,

Lydia Dickson