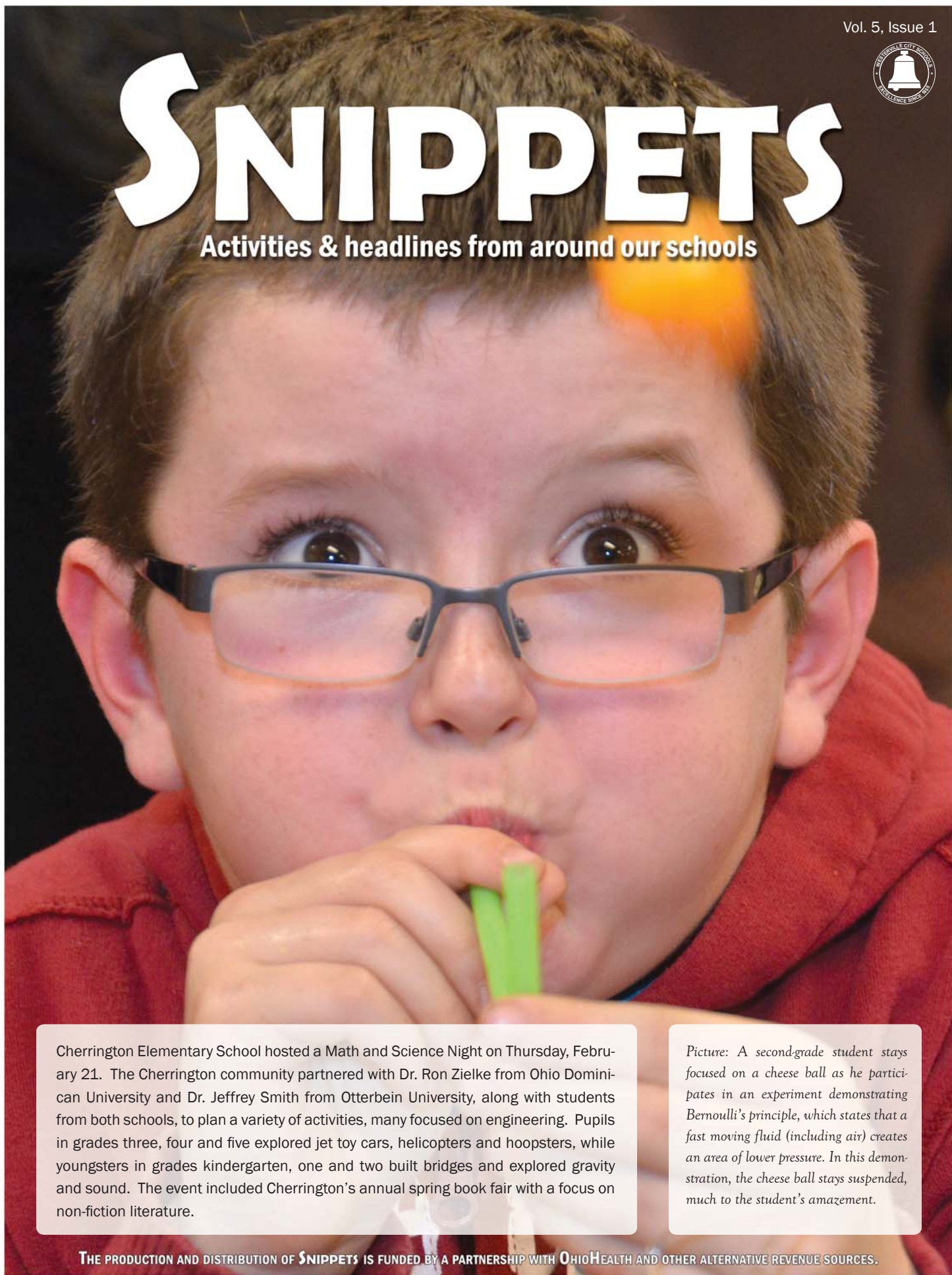




SNIPPETS

Activities & headlines from around our schools



Cherrington Elementary School hosted a Math and Science Night on Thursday, February 21. The Cherrington community partnered with Dr. Ron Zielke from Ohio Dominican University and Dr. Jeffrey Smith from Otterbein University, along with students from both schools, to plan a variety of activities, many focused on engineering. Pupils in grades three, four and five explored jet toy cars, helicopters and hoopsters, while youngsters in grades kindergarten, one and two built bridges and explored gravity and sound. The event included Cherrington's annual spring book fair with a focus on non-fiction literature.

Picture: A second-grade student stays focused on a cheese ball as he participates in an experiment demonstrating Bernoulli's principle, which states that a fast moving fluid (including air) creates an area of lower pressure. In this demonstration, the cheese ball stays suspended, much to the student's amazement.

Dr. John Kellogg Named Superintendent



Dr. John Kellogg has been named the next Superintendent of Schools and will assume the Superintendency on July 1, 2013, subsequent to the retirement of Dr. Dan Good.

“Dr. Kellogg brings an impressive list of credentials and a proven track record of success to our district,” said Board of Education President Denise Pope. “We believe his experience and leadership style will help our district maintain the positive momentum we’ve gained in recent years and build upon a tradition of excellence.”

Dr. Kellogg presently serves as the assistant superintendent of curriculum for South-Western City School District. He brings professional experience as a classroom teacher at Bruton High School in York County School District (Yorktown, Va.); assistant principal at Atlee High School in Hanover County Public Schools (Hanover, Va.); principal of Grove City High School in the South-Western City School District; principal of Bexley High School in the Bexley City School District; and executive director of secondary schools in the South-Western City School District. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Biology and master’s degree in Secondary Science Curriculum from the College of William and Mary, an educational specialist degree in Educational Leadership from George Washington University, and a doctor of education degree in Educational Leadership from Ohio University.

Dr. Kellogg has participated in the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio 2011 District Leadership Institute, completed Lean Six Sigma training, participated on the Mayor of Bexley’s Budget Review and Recommendations committee, served on the Capital University Institutional Review Board as a community representative, and has served on the Buckeye Association of School Administrators’ technology committee. His hobbies include distance running, reading and spending time with his family.

Dr. Kellogg’s salary will be \$185,000 annually and he will be responsible for paying the full amount of required contributions to his state retirement system.

“I’m both thrilled and humbled to be given the opportunity to lead a school district with such a positive reputation as the Westerville City Schools,” Dr. Kellogg said. “I look forward to meeting and getting to know the people in our district and community who have made our district as successful as it is today. I also look forward to exploring innovative ways we can continue to work together to take student achievement to new heights.”

Administrative Changes Coming for the 2013-2014

Dr. Dan Good is retiring effective June 30, 2013, after serving five years as Superintendent.

Chief Academic Officer **Karen McClellan** has announced that she will be retiring effective July 1, 2013, after spending the last 23 years of her career in the Westerville City School District.

Coordinator of ESL/Gifted & Talented Services **Suzanne Palmer** is joining the Worthington City Schools on August 1, 2013, as Gifted Education Coordinator.

Westerville South High School Athletic Director **Scott Dorne** also is joining the Worthington City Schools next year to become the Athletic Director at Thomas Worthington High School.

Westerville South High School Assistant Principal **Andy Jados** will be joining the South-Western City School District next year to become the Principal of Franklin Heights High School.



Remainder of 2012-13 School Year

- May 23 Last Day of Classes
- May 27 Memorial Day (Offices Closed)

2013 Commencement

- May 25 Ohio Expo/Celeste Center
- Westerville Central - 10:00 AM
- Westerville South - 2:00 PM
- Westerville North - 6:00 PM

Grade Cards

- May 23 Elementary
- June 6 Middle & High School

Start of 2013-14 School Year

- Aug 14 Classes Begin
- Aug 19 Classes Begin Kg & Pre-School
- Sep 2 Labor Day (No School)

OhioHealth 4th Friday

- Sep 27 School Daze
- 6-9pm in Uptown Westerville

Board of Education

Denise Pope, President; Kristi Robbins, Vice President; Cindy Crowe; Dr. Carol French; Kevin Hoffman

District Leadership

Dr. J. Daniel Good, Superintendent/CEO; Bart Griffith, Treasurer/CFO; Mark Hershiser, Asst. Supt./COO; Karen McClellan, Chief Academic Officer

SNIPPETS is produced by the Office of Communications & Technology; Greg Viebranz, Exec. Dir. of Communications & Technology; Matt Davis, Visual Communications Coordinator; Lynne Maslowski, Community Engagement Coordinator



Westerville City School District
936 Eastwind Drive, Suite 200
Westerville, Ohio 43081

www.WCSOH.org



Westerville City Schools earns Excellent with Distinction Ranking

The Westerville City School District earned an Excellent with Distinction ranking on the 2011-2012 School Year Report Card, released in February by the Ohio Department of Education. The district met all state standards, met Adequate Yearly Progress requirements, earned a Value-added rating of "Above," and attained its highest ever Performance Index of 102.9 out of 120. Students' performance on the 14 Ohio Achievement Assessment measures surpassed the state minimum 75 percent passing rate by an average of 12.2 percent. Student performance on the 10 Ohio Graduation Test measures also far surpassed the state minimums.

Westerville City School District
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Kindergarten registration for the **2013-2014** school year is underway.

Kindergarten registration takes place at the
Enrollment and Family Resource Center
 300 Polaris Parkway, Suite 3200
 Located on the 3rd floor of the OhioHealth Westerville Medical Campus

Additional information is available at www.wcsd.org or call (614)797-7700.

GEM Award Recipients Announced

The Westerville Parent Council and Roush Honda recently announced the tenth annual Great Educator and Mentor (GEM) Award winners. GEM awards are given to individuals who make a difference in the lives of the students in the Westerville School District. All GEM winners promote the welfare of students in the home, school and community, and each goes above and beyond the call of duty. This year, 26 deserving individuals and one business were recognized and honored as GEM award winners during a Special Session of the Westerville City Schools Board of Education on April 29, 2013.

ELEMENTARY

- Alcott Elementary*, Sue Cline
- Annehurst Elementary*, Howard Baum
- Cherrington Elementary*, Michele Janney
- Emerson Magnet*, Vicki Jarrell
- Fouse Elementary*, Rene' Smith
- Hanby Magnet*, Bronwyn Ginty
- Hawthorne Elementary*, Bonnie Gourley
- Huber Ridge Elementary*, Deb Seckel
- Mark Twain Elementary*, Kristen Buckley
- McVay Elementary*, Tai Wong
- Pointview Elementary*, Missi Howlett
- Robert Frost Elementary*, Sue Castro
- Whittier Elementary*, Jodi Dixon
- Wilder Elementary*, Emilee Berwanger

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

- Jill McKinley, RN

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Blendon Middle School*, Amy Emler
- Genoa Middle School*, Mary Jo Balk
- Heritage Middle School*, Danielle Reedy
- Walnut Springs Middle School*, Jane Elliott

HIGH SCHOOLS

- Central High School*, Lauren Pratt
- North High School*, Jordi Vilanova
- South High School*, Linda Ferguson

DISTRICT

- Sherri Blais
- Tracy Davidson
- Makayla Sampson
- Jordi Vilanova

TERRY GORDON BUSINESS

- i9 Sports



Middle School Leaders Host Energy Fairs for Elementary Students

Students in advanced seventh-grade science classes from each Westerville middle school engaged fifth graders at Mark Twain, Whittier, Cherrington, Wilder, McVay, Robert Frost, Alcott, and Fouse elementary schools this year in Energy Activity Stations and Energy Fairs. In addition to helping the youngsters become more comfortable with their transition into middle school through interactions with the seventh graders, the elementary pupils learned about energy types, resources, transfer, conservation, and usage.

Three Genoa History Day Projects Advanced to National History Day State Finals

Genoa Middle School students competed against students from Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, and Union counties at Otterbein University on March 23. Three Genoa projects then advanced from the district contest to the state finals, held on April 27 at The Ohio State University. Madison Seabury, a seventh grader competing against 550 students from 80 schools, received Honorable Mention in the Junior Individual Website category for her project “The Little Equality” which ranked her 4th place in the state.

Four Middle School Invention Convention Winners Advance to State Competition

Nearly 30 students set up displays for the fourth annual Westerville City Schools Middle School Invention Convention, held at Walnut Springs on April 10. Inventions were judged by a panel of educa-

tors, administrators, and community members. At the conclusion of the event, four pupils and their inventions were chosen to advance to the 18th annual Columbus Invention Convention, where they competed on May 18 at Columbus State Community College.

Fourteen Westerville Middle School Students Eligible to Compete at State Science Day

A record number of Westerville middle school students competed and qualified to attend Central District Science Day at Columbus State on March 16. At that contest, 14 received Superior ratings, making them eligible to compete at State Science Day, which was held on May 11 at The Ohio State University’s French Field House and St. John’s Arena.

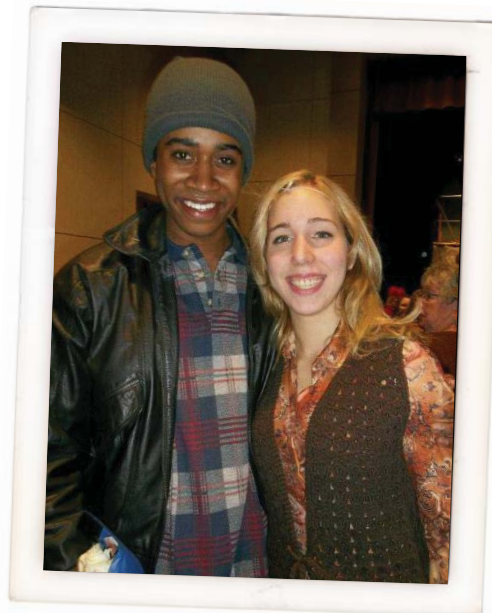
Hawthorne Students Enjoy High-Tech Treasure Hunt

Hawthorne Elementary School’s PTO sponsored a Geocaching Night on February 28. Students, along with their family members, came back to school that evening with their heavy coats, gloves, and flashlights to learn about geocaching — a treasure hunting game where participants use a hand-held Global Positioning System to hide and seek containers with other participants.

WSHS Students Shine at State Thespian Conference

This year marks the 35th year that Westerville South High School has attended the Ohio State Thespian Conference. Thirty-two stu-

dents traveled to Sylvania Northview High School for the event which featured performances, workshops, and other displays of theatrical talents. South thespians Leah Kincer and Sharif Stone were selected as actors for this year’s All-Ohio production of *Rent*. They auditioned against students from all over Ohio for the highly coveted and competitive roles, and only 25 were selected for the show. Additionally, six South thespians (Matt Charleston, Lucas LeWinter, Andrew Millsap, Morgan Oates, Matthew Phillips, and Melanie Raphael) competed in the conference’s annual Technical Crew Challenge and placed second overall in the state.



Westerville Central’s Interact Club Makes Blankets for Foster Children

The Interact Club at Westerville Central High School met on March 20 to make 10 blankets for My Very Own Blanket, an organization that provides blankets to foster children.

Innovation Summit Speakers Ponder Educational Transformation

More than 200 teachers, students, administrators, and community members attended the first Westerville City Schools Innovation Summit on April 3. The Summit consisted of speakers from different backgrounds and interests who shared their views on and experiences with education, and provided participants with inspiration, affirmation, and vision around innovation and educational transformation. A sampling of topics included *Meeting Students Where They Are*; *Community Partnerships*; *Where is Innovation?*; and *Customization in an Era of Standardization*.

WNHS Class of 2013 Raises Money for Westerville Area Resource Ministry

Westerville North High School senior class officers and the Class of 2013 held a fundraising event prior to the North vs. South boys basketball game on February 15. The event was a pre-game dinner for the entire student body cheer section. With donations by Jets Pizza and JC Manny, students received pizza, drinks and a rally towel. All proceeds from this event went to support the efforts of the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM).

The Wild Warbots: Westerville's High School Robotics Team

The Wild Warbots are a FIRST Robotics team comprised of 20 students from Westerville South, North, and Central high schools. The team recently competed at the Buckeye Regional FIRST Robotics Competition held at Cleveland State University where the students built and programmed a robot to complete a challenge that required it to maneuver a playing field, shoot Frisbees into targets, and climb a metal pyramid. The Wild Warbots have also been awarded a \$4,500 grant from American Electric Power to purchase tools and materials for robot building, as well as pay the entrance fee for future competitions.



Walnut Springs Fishing Club Participates in Cabela's Grand Opening

The Walnut Springs Middle School Fishing Club participated in the Cabela's (Polaris) grand opening events on March 9 and 10. Advisor Dwight Back was contacted by management of the new store and asked to coordinate an FLW/The Bass Federation sanctioned "Reel Kids Casting Competition" for shoppers and their families.

Heritage Renaissance Students Earn "Really Cool" Field Trip to the Chiller at Easton

Heritage Middle School treated more than 430 students to a field trip to The Chiller Easton on April 5 to celebrate third quarter Renaissance participants. These students displayed excellence in the areas of academics, attendance, behavior, school involvement, and school/community service. The event would not have been possible without help from the Heritage PTSA and the Chiller staff.

Annehurst and Cherrington are named Schools of Promise

Because failure is not an option at Annehurst and Cherrington elementary schools in Westerville, these two buildings have been named 2012 *Schools of Promise* by the Ohio Department of Education. *Schools of Promise* spotlights individual schools that demonstrate strong examples of what is possible when students, educators, parents and community members come together and believe that all students can succeed.

Ronald McDonald Encourages Alcott Students to Read More

First and second graders at Alcott Elementary School were recently treated to an entertaining and inspirational visit from Ronald McDonald. The free, 45-minute show, called "It's Book Time with Ronald McDonald," addressed the topic of reading in a fun and relevant way for young children.



Hanby Claymation Film Selected for Inclusion in Wexner's 2013 Ohio Shorts Screening

Earlier this school year, Math/Science students in Angie Heath's fifth grade gifted program at Hanby Elementary School produced a three-minute 2-D Clay Animation film demonstrating the Food Web. The project was made possible thanks to the help of parent volunteers Tracy and Robert Robbins, art instructors at the Columbus College of Art & Design. The film was selected to be shown at the 2013 Ohio Shorts: Youth Division Screening at the Wexner Center.

Westerville Central Taribo Osuobeni Wins State Poetry Out Loud Competition

Taribo Osuobeni, a senior at Westerville Central High School, won the eighth annual Poetry Out Loud competition for Ohio, hosted by the Ohio Arts Council at the Matesich Theatre on the campus of Ohio Dominican University. The 18-year-old triumphed with recitations of "On Quitting," by Edgar Albert Guest; "No Coward Soul is Mine," by Emily Bronte; and "The Craftsman," by Marcus B. Christian.

Emerson World Cultures Magnet School Hosts International Night

On the evening of March 12, students from the Emerson World Cultures Magnet School, along with friends and family members, packed the auditorium and commons at Westerville Central High School for International Night. The evening included a school wide musical performance, a student art show and a focus on Service Learning.

Author/Illustrator David Cuccia Shares his Love of Animals with Cherrington Students

Author/illustrator and pet advocate David Cuccia, who wrote "There's a Crazy Dog Under the Palace," visited Cherrington Elementary School on March 18. He adopted his current rescue dog, Jasmine, from the Franklin County Animal Shelter and she is the star of his latest book.

Hawthorne Spring Fun Fair Draws Families

Hawthorne Elementary School celebrated the theme of "family fun" with a Spring Fun Fair held April 6. Activities included face painting, balloon animals, inflatables, carnival games, bake sale, food sales, silent auction, and a raffle. "We enjoyed seeing all of the families out having fun together," stated Rebecca O'Brien, whose son is in kindergarten. "It was a great event and we look forward to being a part of it again next year!"

WNHS Mock Trial Team Competes in State Contest

The Westerville North High School Mock Trial Team in March participated in the annual Ohio Center for Law Related Education's State High School Mock Trial competition. The team advanced to the state semi-finals for the third straight year, one of only three teams in the state to do so. The students placed first in both the district and the regional competition, earning the right to advance to the state tournament.

Robert Frost Students Win Top Honors at Seventh Annual Lego Competition

Eric Glasgow, a fifth-grade student at Robert Frost Elementary School, created the Hanby House out of Legos and ended up being named Overall Grand Winner at the seventh annual Westerville City Schools Lego Competition held on March 16. Proceeds from the event benefited Westerville's Elementary Leadership Summit, the Children Supporting Children Foundation, and the Westerville Area Resource Ministry.

Irish Jig Tradition Continues at Mark Twain Elementary School

Every year on or around St. Patrick's Day, students and staff at Mark Twain Elementary School can be seen dancing an Irish Jig, a tradition which began back in 1980 - 33 years ago. The event was brought to the school by teacher Ruth McDermott, who learned how to do it from a colleague in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, in 1971.





Robert Frost Family Gadget Night Stimulates Inquiring Minds

Robert Frost Elementary School was a busy place on the evening, April 11. The school's Math/Science Program hosted Gadget Night, during which time children and their families were allowed and encouraged to take apart broken or unusable household appliances or other mechanical devices that had been donated for this purpose.

Columbus Astronomical Society Shares the Universe during Stars in the Park Event

Members of the Columbus Astronomical Society (CAS) shared their telescopes with approximately 250 people – mostly Westerville elementary students and their family members – at CAS and the Westerville Elementary Boosters' *Stars in the Park* stargazing night on April 20. Throughout the night participants viewed Jupiter, Saturn, the Orion nebula, several star clusters, and briefly, a comet! A young Westerville student summed up the evening's enthusiasm when she jumped up and down declaring, "I love looking at space!"

Westerville Schools Hosts Ohio School Integrated Pest Management Resource Workshop

Westerville City Schools partnered with The Ohio State University last month to host the inaugural Ohio School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Resource Group workshop. The purpose of the meeting was to share IPM information with various Ohio school districts and to promote a partnership with other school districts within the state.

McVay's Pasta Dinner Brings Families Together for Food, Fellowship and Fun

The seventh annual McVay Elementary School Pasta Dinner & Family Night was held on Wednesday, March 13. Students, staff and family members packed the Commons area, where all enjoyed a delicious dinner and a performance by the McVay Choir.

Delaware Area Career Center Students Promote Good Dental Hygiene at Huber Ridge

Why is it important to brush our teeth frequently and what does flossing do? These are some of the questions that were answered by a group of students from the Dental Assisting Program at the Delaware Area Career Center. They visited first graders at Huber Ridge Elementary School on February 21 to share good hygiene tips. Their appearance was timely as the American Dental Association sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month each February to raise awareness about the importance of oral health.

Westerville North Students Spread the Word to End the Word

The overwhelming support Westerville North High School students have for their "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign was evident when more than 200 t-shirts were sold on behalf of the cause. This is an ongoing effort by Special Olympics, Best Buddies, and other supporters to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word "retarded" and to encourage people to pledge to stop using that word.



Westerville South Wildcat PRIDE Committee Hosts Cafeteria Worker Appreciation Day

South students and staff wanted to demonstrate their appreciation for what the Food Service employees do every day. To say "thank you" for all the delicious and nutritious meals they provide, the Wildcat PRIDE Committee sponsored Westerville South High School Cafeteria Worker Appreciation Day on March 20. The committee served them a luncheon on tables adorned with floral centerpieces, bowls of candy, and cards which stated, "You are simply amazing!"



Somali Moms Group Honors Superintendent Dan Good at Special Luncheon

The Somali Moms Group hosted a special luncheon on Wednesday afternoon, April 17, to thank departing Westerville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Good for his service to the District and to their families. They said Dr. Good has “an amazing potential for bringing people together from all corners of the earth, even across barriers of culture and language.”



Whittier World Showcases Service Learning Projects

Whittier World was held at Whittier Elementary School on Thursday evening, April 11, during which time individual students and groups were invited to showcase service learning projects they have been working on throughout the school year. Families were invited to buy items and participate in activities, with proceeds benefiting a number of charities.

Middle School Students Attend Nationwide Children’s Hospital’s Career Day

Thirty-eight students representing each of Westerville’s four middle schools attended the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Middle School Career Day on Friday, March 22. There, medical professionals, including radiologists, speech therapists and respiratory therapists, shared information about healthcare careers and medical technology. Funded entirely by Children’s Hospital and supported by the Westerville City Schools’ Gifted Education Department, the students were able to learn about new and exciting careers, hear how the workshop leaders decided to choose certain fields, and receive advice on what courses to take, the importance of studying, and how to make the most of one’s talents and passions in a field that is constantly evolving.

Westerville Indoor Percussion Ensemble Places Fourth in the Country

The Westerville Indoor Percussion Ensemble participated in three rounds of competition April 18-20 at the Winter Guard International World Championships in Dayton. They ended up placing fourth in the country with a score of 93.238.

Start & End Times for 2013-14

Start and end times have been determined for the 2013-2014 school year. Elementary students will begin classes at 9:05 a.m. and dismiss at 3:30 p.m. The Middle School day will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m. High school classes will commence at 7:25 a.m. and finish at 2:05 p.m.

Start / End Times Effective 2013-14 School Year	
Preschool AM	
AM Start Time	8:45 a.m.
AM End Time	11:15 a.m.
Preschool PM	
PM Start Time	12:45 p.m.
PM End Time	3:15 p.m.
Elementary	
Start Time	9:05 a.m.
End Time	3:30 p.m.
Middle School	
Start Time	8:00 a.m.
End Time	2:45 p.m.
High School	
<i>All high schools will have a single arrival and release for 2013-2014</i>	
Start Time	7:25 a.m.
End Time	2:05 p.m.

Westerville Kiwanis Honors Scholars at 51st Academic Varsity Awards Banquet

The Westerville Kiwanis Club honored the top 30 senior scholars from Westerville high schools during its 51st annual Academic Varsity Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening, April 17. The evening included a dinner and special recognition of 10 students from Westerville Central, 10 students from Westerville North, and 10 students from Westerville South High School.

Retiring Superintendent Dr. Dan Good was the guest speaker. He thanked Ray Bertelsen, Chairman of the Kiwanis' Academic Varsity Committee, for "championing our public schools both during his esteemed career there and since his retirement." He also thanked the Kiwanis Club collectively, saying, "While many associations showcase our impressive learners for specific achievements both curricular and extra-curricular, no other non-profit collectively esteems high school seniors who have dedicated themselves to and achieved extraordinary scholarship." Dr. Good talked about technological advances and social media, even offering audience members the opportunity to send a Tweet about the evening's activities. While the Internet is full of negative predictions for this year's graduating class, Dr. Good believes that the millennial generation - especially those being honored at this function - have great potential. "Millennials are demanding capitalism with a conscience," he said, adding that this group of Academic Varsity members has all the right attributes to train for, secure and flourish in fields that will promote peace, justice and healing in our world. He encouraged the students to stay calm and maintain a positive focus. His presentation ended with the singing by students and adults of Natasha Bedingfield's song, Unwritten. Each pupil was given a blank journal and a pen inscribed with their name. "Today is where your book begins," he concluded.



Westerville Central High School Honorees

Front row (left to right): Morgan Cody, Emma Ivanauskas, Natalie Pinney, Grace Busick, and Megumi Mori.
Back row: Westerville Central Principal Todd Spinner, Yousef Yacoub, Preston Roe, Bernard Skubak, Craig Martin, Ryan Kesselring, and Eric Bush, Kiwanis Master



Westerville North High School Honorees

Front row (left to right): Drake Lundstrom, Brian Young, Megan Koleske, Keagan Gertz, and Will Vosler.
Back row: Westerville North Principal Kurt Yancey, Mark Grady, Jacob Sampson, Greg Gaus, Ruben Morgan and Eric Bush, Kiwanis Master of Ceremonies.
Not pictured: Peter Sandvik



Westerville South High School Honorees

Front row (left to right): Mubarik Mohamed, Rachel Leonard, Leah Kincer, Marina David, and Sarah Boes.
Second Row: Westerville South Principal Steve Andersen, Josh Tee, Melanie Raphael, Matt Phillips, Morgan Oates, and Eric Bush, Kiwanis Master of Ceremonies.
Not pictured: Jeremy Held.

Continued Efforts Help Reduce Financial Obligations and Save Taxpayer Dollars

The spotlight has shone brightly during the past 18 months on several of the Westerville City School District's (WCSD) high-profile financial matters, including the impact of state budget cuts to education; ballot requests for additional revenue; decreased staffing, service, and academic program levels; and collective bargaining with four employee associations. During that same time period, however, district officials continued their ongoing effort to enact additional measures that reduce the district's financial obligations and save taxpayer dollars.

"Though these measures haven't always received the same level of attention as others, they're just as important and have contributed greatly to the district's ability to stretch emergency operating levy revenue two years beyond original projections," said WCSD Treasurer/CFO Bart Griffith. "We've promised continued financial accountability to our residents, and being able to achieve long-term savings for taxpayers is just one more step toward meeting this pledge."

Debt Refinancing

Last September, the district refinanced a portion of its bond indebtedness to significantly reduce future interest payments. Similar to residents refinancing a home mortgage to save money, school officials took advantage of unique market conditions to reduce costs. Those actions saved the residents of the Westerville School District approximately \$1 million. Working with public finance specialists from Robert W. Baird & Company, the district actually saved \$60,000 more than originally estimated, bringing the total savings achieved to \$942,471. Finance experts noted that the Board made a wise decision to front-load the savings because taxpayers will see true savings on their tax bills. The total savings in 2013 will be \$794,000 and in 2014 it will be \$134,000. District officials completed a similar measure in 2006 to refund a portion of the district's 2001 bonds that ultimately saved taxpayers slightly more than \$3 million in interest payments.

Health Insurance Changes

In addition to securing negotiated agreements that result in all employees paying more for health insurance benefits, officials have

found additional ways to reduce the district's projected health insurance costs. Across the nation, double-digit health insurance premium increases have been the norm for companies offering such benefits to their employees. Comparable rate increases were projected in the district's five-year forecast. Last year, however, Griffith aggressively pursued and negotiated reduced premium rate increases from the district's health insurance provider. His efforts ultimately resulted in a 5 percent reduction to projected rate increases for Fiscal Year 2013 and a savings of approximately \$1 million to the district's budget. In 2011, Griffith also rebid a contract for insurance brokerage services. The resulting contract allowed the district to switch from a premium rate to a flat rate, thereby saving \$90,000 annually.

As part of its ongoing effort to decrease insurance premium costs, WCSD in January 2013 switched from a fully-insured health plan to a self-insured plan. This change is projected to result in an estimated savings of \$1 million to \$3 million, depending upon the number and types of claims filed.



The district refinanced a portion of its bond indebtedness to significantly reduce future interest payments. Those actions saved the residents of the Westerville School District approximately \$1 million.

Win-Win Agreement Payments

When it was discovered that Columbus City Schools used an erroneous formula to calculate Win-Win payments owed by participating school districts, leaders of the Westerville City Schools became heavily involved in subsequent negotiations to remedy the situation. Though some supported a longer payback schedule, WCSD officials aggressively pushed for a more immediate fix, knowing it would have a greater positive impact on the district's bottom line. As a result, WCSD annually will receive \$311,229 for the next three years, bringing its total refund to \$933,687. The other five school districts due refunds will receive between \$112,117 and

\$542,938 annually over the next three years. Three central Ohio districts participating in the settlement agreement owe money and will make those payments over the next three years. In an effort to ensure the accuracy of future bills, the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio (ESCCO) will calculate the bills for each district and administer the billing process once the reconciliation fund has been depleted. Columbus City Schools will pay the ESCCO for its time in administering the billing process.

Ongoing Austerity Initiatives

WCSD budget managers are encouraged to decrease or hold budgets flat when possible, and to seek new business practices that result in greater efficiencies, reduced costs or increased alternative revenues. Several practices have been changed to achieve these desired outcomes. For example, a change in accounting practices within the Fiscal Services Department resulted in a \$30,000 savings. Additionally, soft drink vending machines throughout the district had been managed under a “self-serve” contract. This means school employees were responsible for refilling the machines, as well as counting, securing and depositing money. The district switched to a full-serve contract and now the beverage company stocks the machines, collects the gross revenues and issues a check for the school’s profit. The result of this switch is increased employee productivity and decreased risk in the handling of cash. Since 2006 district officials have achieved approximately \$18.2 million in austerity measures. The district has documented slightly more than a quarter of a million dollars in austerity measures through the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2013.

The district’s past, present and future belt-tightening initiatives, along with its sound financial management practices, have been recognized by independent authorities. Most recently, Standard & Poors reviewed the WCSD’s financial status and chose to maintain its AA- rating of the district. Moody’s followed suit and maintained its Aa2 rating of the district.

“Despite outside influences that have the potential to negatively impact the district’s finances, these independent rating companies remained impressed by the quality of the Westerville City School District’s leadership team and strength of the district’s current financial position,” explained David Conley, managing director of public finance for Robert W. Baird & Company. “This is critical because a high rating from these independent analysts means lower costs to the district and its taxpayers.”



Audit Confirms Accountability to Taxpayers

Fiscal Services Office Honored by Auditor of State

Westerville City School District’s Fiscal Services Office, headed by Treasurer/CFO Bart Griffith and Assistant Treasurer Laura Hendricks, has earned an Auditor of State Award with Distinction for fiscal reporting and accountability to taxpayers.

The honor is presented only to those local governments and school districts meeting the highest standards of a financial audit. Entities that receive the award meet the following criteria of a clean audit report:

1. The entity must file timely financial reports with the Auditor of State’s office in the form of a CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report);
2. The audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or questioned costs; and
3. The entity’s management letter contains no comments related to ethics referrals, questioned costs less than \$10,000, lack of timely report submission, reconciliation, failure to obtain a timely Single Audit, findings for recovery less than \$100, public meetings, or public records.

Griffith credited his staff for their outstanding efforts, saying, “This is their award.” Griffith also noted that the clean audit is a reflection of the ethical stan-

dards of district budget managers and others in the organization who are responsible for the use of district resources.

Speaking on behalf of the Audit Committee, Al Hammond, Jr., reported to the Board that the Auditor of State issued an unqualified opinion regarding the Financial Statements and Major Federal Program Compliance. There were no corrective actions required, nor were there any findings, findings for recovery, or questioned costs.

Hammond noted that the audit found no material control weaknesses reported at the financial statement level, no significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level, no noncompliance at the financial statement level, no material internal control weaknesses reported for major federal programs, no significant deficiencies in internal control reported for the major Federal Programs, and no reportable findings.

“This was an exemplary audit,” Hammond said. “I go through a lot of audit reports throughout the state. I get a lot of these single audits to review in my position and one that’s unqualified with no material misstatements is an excellent audit...I would say in the top 5 percent within the state.”

The audit was officially released January 17, and can be viewed at the Auditor of State web site.



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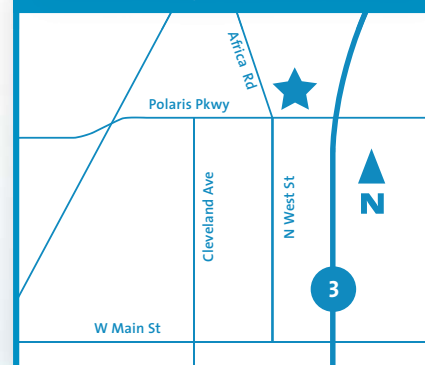
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