



SNIPPETS

Activities & headlines from around our schools



Robert Frost Elementary School was a busy place the evening of March 12. The school's Math/Science Program hosted Gadget Night, during which children and their families were encouraged to take apart broken or unusable household appliances or other mechanical devices that had been donated for this purpose. Children brought small, basic toolboxes to use while exploring and investigating inner gears and gizmos. They were also encouraged to create new gadgets using extracted parts and pieces.

Picture: Fifth grade students examine a computer keyboard they've dismantled during Robert Frost Elementary School's annual Gadget Night.

SOLID Financial Footing *Despite State Budget Maneuvers*

John R. Kellogg, Ed.D., Superintendent

Last December, Board of Education members and representatives from the district's Leadership Team met at our Early Learning Center for the Board's annual year-end retreat. Newly-elected Board members also participated in the retreat, a summary of which is available in the News Archives section of our website at www.wcsoh.org.

One of the takeaways from the retreat's several presentations should be welcome news to residents. The Westerville City School District (WCSD) remains on solid financial ground. Furthermore, district leaders remain committed to operating with the parameters of the current five-year financial forecast and maintaining our current practice of seeking additional cost-saving efficiencies.

The State of Ohio's latest biennial budget, which went into effect July 1, 2013, included several changes to the formulas used to calculate public education funding. However, our ongoing efforts to manage within our resources have allowed us to minimize the impact of these changes. For example, the new state funding formula uses a base per pupil allocation amount of \$5,745. But, because we are considered a "high wealth" district due to our property and income wealth, the state's new formula provides us with only 37.55 percent of the base per-pupil amount, or \$2,157. In the eyes of the state, the district and its residents should be responsible for providing the other 65 percent of the base pupil allocation through local taxes. We do receive some revenue from casino income, which our financial forecast models at approximately \$52 per pupil.

Furthermore, there is now a cap on the amount of additional state dollars we can receive during the current fiscal year and next fiscal year. For the current fiscal year, the maximum state funding increase our district could realize was set at 6.25 percent. The cap is set at a maximum 10.5 percent state funding increase for FY15. That means even if the state funding formula called for a 15 percent increase in a district's allocation, we will only receive a 6.25 percent increase and 10 percent increase, respectively.

...district leaders remain committed to operating with the parameters of the current five-year financial forecast and maintaining our current practice of seeking additional cost-saving efficiencies.

What does the state funding cap mean to us in terms of actual dollars? For the current school year, the state funding formula indicated that Westerville should receive approximately \$42 million dollars. However, because of the cap, we only received \$32 million. As a result of the cap, our state funding levels for FY14 are comparable to those of FY09.

Why is it important for residents to understand how state-level changes impact us locally? Because our current financial forecast indicates that WCSD will remain financially solvent through at least Fiscal

Year (FY) 2018. This is three years longer than originally anticipated when our community approved the March 2012 emergency operating levy. However, the fact that the March 2012 emergency levy was not a continuing levy creates the need for our community to have a crucial conversation in just a few years.

The emergency levy will expire and be removed from residents' tax bill at the end of calendar year 2017. If the levy is allowed to expire, our schools would still be able to operate through FY18 but would need to consider returning to the ballot with a new revenue request shortly thereafter.

Allowing the emergency levy to expire in 2017 likely would have a negative financial impact on taxpayers because the latest state budget also eliminated the homestead exemption and property tax rollback provisions. This means the state will no longer pay 12.5 percent of property owners' tax bills on any new levies or other new tax issues approved by voters. However, the homestead exemption and property tax rollback would apply to any existing tax issues renewed by taxpayers. This means the state would still pay 12.5 percent of the district's emergency levy should residents approve its renewal.

Despite of the impact of these changes by the state, please know that we appreciate and are working diligently to protect the financial resources that our community has approved for our schools. We are pleased that the results of our efforts have resulted in the ability to stretch our resources well beyond the original commitment made to taxpayers approximately two years ago.



Front row (L to R): Mark Hershiser, Assistant Superintendent; Tracy Davidson, Vice President, Westerville City Schools Board of Education; Dave Yost, Auditor of State; Dr. John Kellogg, Superintendent; and Dr. Nancy Nestor-Baker, President, Westerville City Schools Board of Education. Back row (L to R): Westerville City Schools Treasurer's Department staff Robin Ducay, Deborah Kagarise, Gloria Stelzer, Heather McCauley, Laura Hendricks (Assistant Treasurer), and Ellen Gilmore.

District Wins Financial Report Award

Dave Yost, Auditor of the State of Ohio, visited the Westerville City School District on March 4 to recognize the Treasurer's Department and present them with an Award with Distinction for excellence in financial reporting for their Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended 2013. Inscribed on the plaque are the words, "Your exemplary reporting serves as the standard for clean, accountable government, representing the highest level of service to Ohioans."

According to the state auditors office, award winners must have a "clean" audit report. Entities must file timely financial reports with the Auditor of State's office in the form of a CAFR, and the audit report must not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or questioned costs.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, commonly known as CAFR, is a detailed report that provides a complete and full disclosure of the district's financial status and represents one fiscal year of activities and balances of the district, and is comprised of three sections: Introductory, Financial and Statistical. The CAFR includes the Independent Auditor's Report, net position and activities statements, fund financial statements, financial highlights, demographic and statistical information, and staffing, educational and operational statistics to help the reader understand the financial condition of the district for each fiscal year.

The complete CAFR document is available online at www.wcsoh.org under Financial Information.



Remainder of 2013-14 School Year

- May 23 Last Day of Classes
- May 26 Memorial Day (Offices Closed)

2014 Commencement

- May 24 Ohio Expo/Celeste Center
 - Westerville North - 10:00 AM
 - Westerville Central - 2:00 PM
 - Westerville South - 6:00 PM

Grade Cards

- May 23 Elementary
- June 6 Middle & High School

Start of 2014-15 School Year

- Aug 13 Classes Begin
- Aug 18 Classes Begin Kg & Pre-School
- Sep 1 Labor Day (No School)

OhioHealth 4th Friday

- Sep 26 School Daze
 - 6-9 PM in Uptown Westerville

Board of Education

Dr. Nancy Nestor-Baker, President;
Tracy Davidson, Vice President; Cindy Crowe;
Dr. Carol French; Rick A. Vilardo

District Leadership

John R. Kellogg, Ed.D., Superintendent/CEO;
Bart Griffith, Treasurer/CFO;
Mark Hershiser, Asst. Supt./COO;

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Westerville, Ohio 43081

www.WCSOH.org

The logo for Ohio's Next Generation Assessments features the word "OHIO'S" in large, stylized letters. Each letter is filled with a different scenic image of Ohio: 'O' shows a beach, 'H' shows a sun over hills, 'I' shows a sun over a field, 'O' shows a sun over a field, and 'S' shows a sun over a field. Below "OHIO'S" are the words "NEXT GENERATION ASSESSMENTS" in a green, serif font.

OHIO'S NEXT GENERATION ASSESSMENTS

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, the Ohio Department of Education is changing the way students are assessed on how well they are meeting new learning standards.

District officials will be issuing monthly updates to create a shared understanding within the community of how these forthcoming changes will impact the Westerville City School District and its students. The initial update includes the following key points:

- PARCC stands for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. Within PARCC, a group of states including Ohio bases assessment content on what it takes to be successful in college and careers in the future.
- As Ohio's New Generation Assessments are intended to be taken online, for the past several months, district administrative personnel have been identifying and planning for the technology and resources needed to specifically address

the online delivery of statewide assessments. A number of schools at all levels will be participating in a PARCC and ODE End-of-Year limited field test trial in May to further prepare both students and staff for the new assessments.

- Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts are intended to take the place of the OAA, the Ohio Achievement Assessments, for grades 3-8 starting in the 2014-2015 school year. Also starting next year will be course-specific assessments in these four content areas for grades.
- In ELA, English Language Arts, the PARCC assessments will look much deeper at the writing abilities of students and their critical thinking skills. In Mathematics, students will have to solve complex problems, show their work, and demonstrate how they solved the problem.
- For most students testing in 2014-15, the PARCC assessments will be administered online when it is fully implemented. At first, a paper-and-pencil backup option will be available if needed. Students may take the assessment on district supported devices like: desktops, laptops, and tablets.

Dr. Scott Ebbrecht, coordinator of the district's Office of Assessment and Alternative Education Services said the state could modify its Next Generation Assessment plan based upon ongoing feedback, field test trial administration, and legislation.

Information on Next Generation Assessments for students is available on the district's website at www.wcsoh.org under the "Ohio's Next Generation of Assessments" link. Anyone with questions about Next Generation Assessments may contact Dr. Ebbrecht at 614/797-7750 or ebbrechs@wcsoh.org.

MAGNET PROGRAM UPDATE

The Westerville City Schools Board of Education recently held a work session that covered several topics, including future elementary and secondary programming and staffing considerations. One item garnering significant attention was the future of the Magnet Program. The Board granted Superintendent Kellogg the authority to convene a committee whose work will result in the restoration of the Magnet Program. According to Kellogg, there are several important considerations regarding the work of the committee:

1. The committee is representative of our elementary school community and includes magnet school parents and staff.

2. All current Magnet Program students will be able to complete the program.
3. The restoration of any programs or services, including the Magnet Program, must allow the district to operate within its current five-year financial forecast.

"As we consider program and service restorations, we will continue to operate under the premise that these items may not come back exactly as they were prior to the budget reduction process," Kellogg explained.

An option shared with the Board that was well received involves maintaining the

Magnet Program for current students and transitioning over time to one class section per grade in grades 1-5. The district would be able to restore one class section in one grade level per year, which also would allow most current magnet staff to remain at their schools.

Board meeting videos are now available online. Interested persons are encouraged to watch this segment of the March 10, 2014, Board work session at <http://tinyurl.com/WCS31014>. Simply click on the "Watch Video" link and fast forward approximately 55 minutes and 40 seconds into the meeting. Complete presentation slides also are available by clicking the "View the Agenda" link and opening the document attached to agenda item 8.01.

GEM Awards Announced

The Westerville Parent Council and Roush Honda recently announced the Eleventh 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 25 deserving individuals and one business have been recognized as GEM award winners. The 2013-2014 GEM Award winners are:

ELEMENTARY

Alcott, Mike Mazzon
Annehurst, Julie Welch
Cherrington, Kate Harris
Emerson, Beth Dalin
Fouse, Heather Griffith
Hanby, Cam and Becky Piatt
Hawthorne, Kate Manteniaks
Huber Ridge, Kristin Couser
Mark Twain, Sharon Dewey
McVay, Julie McGuff
Pointview, Mary Taylor
Robert Frost, Sarah Berka
Whittier, Meg Miller
Wilder, Kim Wickham

PRESCHOOL

Early Learning Center, Winnie Maze

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Blendon, Pam Aylor
Genoa, Amy Glorioso
Heritage, Anne Bates
Walnut Springs, Deborah Hinkle

HIGH SCHOOLS

Westerville Central, Ty Stover
Westerville North, Kenneth Donchatz
Westerville South, Noelle Priestestersbach

DISTRICT

Ric Barthel
Christine Dilley
Bev Koenig

TERRY GORDON BUSINESS AWARD

OhioHealth

Elementary & Middle Schools

NEW Schedule FOR OAA Exams

Middle school tests will be given as follows:

- Reading, grades 6-8, Monday, April 28
- Mathematics, grades 6-8, Wednesday, April 30; and
- Science, grade 8 only, Thursday, May 1.

Elementary school tests will be given as follows:

- Reading, grades 3-5, Thursday, May 1;
- Mathematics, grades 3-5, Tuesday, May 6; and
- Science, grade 5 only, Thursday, May 8

All make up tests are to be completed by May 16.

Additional information online at
www.WCSOH.org.



DISTRICT DELAYS OAA EXAM DATES

for Elementary, Middle School Students

Recent action by the Ohio Department of Education has expanded the window in which school districts can administer Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) to students in grades 3-8. After collaborating with other employees at the district and building levels, Westerville City School District officials have decided to take advantage of this opportunity and delay the administration of OAA exams for its elementary and middle school students.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Richard A. Ross said the unusually harsh winter was a key factor in granting school districts the extension, and that school leaders around the state have faced unprecedented challenges while making the safety of students their top priority.

Longfellow Building Used for Police Dog Training



Left: Fiji finds narcotics that officers hid among the boxes. Right: City of Westerville Officer Bryan Schwartz with his partner, Fiji.

The Westerville Division of Police on March 18 hosted a statewide training exercise at Longfellow Elementary School for K-9 officers and their police dogs. The vacant school building proved to be an ideal setting for scenarios involving narcotics and contraband searches, as items were hidden around the school and then quickly found by the canines.

Bryan Schwartz, a police officer with the City of Westerville, attended the training exercise with his partner, Fiji, a two-year-old Belgian Malinois. Fiji, an incredibly agile dog, had no problem sniffing out drugs despite the size of the two-story building. Training in a vacant school building helps K-9 officers practice navigating corridors and classrooms without disrupting a

school day. Officer Schwartz said the Division of Police was grateful to the Westerville Schools for allowing them to conduct the training exercises in the building.

The Westerville City School District has long benefited from its mutually-beneficial partnership with the City of Westerville, Westerville Division of Police, and neighboring municipalities through the School Resource Officers program. By providing a location for this statewide training exercise, the district was able to showcase its relationship with local law enforcement agencies and strengthen the reputation of such partnerships.

Pointview Students Receive Books to Keep

More than 1,300 books were donated to appreciative Pointview Elementary School students this winter, thanks to the efforts of the Westerville Kiwanis Club, Westerville Partners for Education, and Half Price Books in Westerville. The entities joined forces to organize the give-away and presented students with their books during a special event this past December.

Knights of Columbus Presents Special Education Department with Generous Donation

Knights of Columbus presented a check in the amount of \$4,674.70 to the Special Education Department to send At Risk students to the Camp Mary Orton Wilderness Bond Program. Wilderness Bond is an outdoor adventure program that combines ad-

venture education and social work facilitation to improve essential skills required to achieve success at home, in school or work, and throughout life.



Anonymous Donor Funds “Great Teaching; Great Tools” Gift Card Giveaway

The “Great Teaching; Great Tools” gift card giveaway got off to a robust beginning, thanks to an anonymous donor who has given the Westerville City School District two \$50 gift cards per month to use in a random drawing for teachers submitting ways they are integrating technology into their classrooms. More than 30 submissions were received the first month and they continue to come in each month as teachers submit their creative uses of technology in the classroom.

North Receives 2012-2013 Ohio Capital Conference Ralph Young All-Sports Award

During its varsity football game held November 1, Westerville North High School representatives accepted the 2012-2013 Ohio Capital Conference (OCC) Ralph Young All-Sports Award. Thirty-two schools in the OCC competed for the honor of receiving this award. Four schools, representing the four conference divisions, earned the prize based on final standings of their teams in 16 common sports. The Westerville North Warriors were recognized for the overall performance of their athletic teams in the Cardinal Division.

Hanby and McVay are Selected by VSAO for Adaptation, Integration, Arts Program

Hanby and McVay Elementary schools are two of only 16 schools in the state to be selected for the VSA Ohio Adaptation, Integration and the Arts (AIA) residency program during the 2013-2014 school year. Children at these buildings are working with teaching artist Candace Mazur Darman. AIA partners teaching artists and educators in inclusive classrooms to enhance teaching and learning through an arts-integrated residency and curriculum.

NBC4 Newscaster Coaches Genoa Students on “Jaguar Update”

Each morning at Genoa Middle school, students and staff learn the latest news throughout the building, thanks to a team of youngsters who produce, record, and edit a program called “Jaguar Update.” The Jaguar staff recently got some tips from a pro. Mikaela Hunt, who co-anchors NBC4 Today and NBC4 Midday, dropped by to check out the operation and offer some advice. Students appreciated the visit since they are striving to become more professional by improving their on-camera presence and learning about creating news stories.



McVay Elementary School Receives 2013 SOAR Award for High Progress

Representatives from McVay Elementary School received a 2013 SOAR Award for High Progress from Battelle for Kids at a reception held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on November 11. Sixteen Ohio schools and 14 Ohio school districts were honored at the event. These annual awards are designed to acknowledge Ohio schools and districts participating in SOAR, Battelle for Kids’ school improvement collaborative, for their academic progress in multiple grade levels and subjects over the previous school year.

Westerville Schools Receive National Energy Award

Faculty and staff at Westerville City Schools have consistently paved the energy conservation pathway for other organizations while achieving significant cost avoidance with energy-efficient behavior – and now those good habits earned the district national recognition. Westerville City Schools has achieved a 32 percent energy cost avoidance totaling \$10.4 Million since forming a strategic alliance with Cenergistic approximately seven years ago. The national energy conservation company presented the district with its Chairman’s Sustainability Award last November.

Westerville Schools and ADAMH Partner to Serve Students in Need

A generous \$300,000 grant to Westerville City Schools from the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH) has allowed the district to nearly double the amount of mental health workers serving students with severe behavioral and emotional issues. Working in partnership with Concord Counseling Services, Westerville City Schools was able to hire two full-time and one part-time mental health workers, which allowed the district to expand provided services.



Good Eats Club at Heritage Draws Students who are Hungry to Learn

Heritage Middle School science teacher Marty Wicks thought it might be fun to start a Good Eats Club after school for sixth grade students who were interested in learning about nutrition and healthy living. He did not anticipate the avalanche of response he received. Sixty pupils showed up for the first meeting. Parent volunteers brought in juicers to help with the making of healthy beverages and then used the pulp from the fruits and vegetables to bake muffins. The word is out around the school and now other students are clamoring to join the club. At the end of the year, Wicks and his club plan to produce a Good Eats Cookbook.

Senior Citizens Get the Red Carpet Treatment at Westerville Central Film Festival

The paparazzi was out in full force the morning of December 10 for the red carpet premiere of "Reflections through the Years," a celebration of 10 short films featuring some of Westerville's finest senior citizens. Westerville Central Film and Literature students got the opportunity to become digital storytellers by documenting personal stories and words of wisdom from 11 senior citizens in the Westerville-area community. After the premiere, the "stars" and their families enjoyed a reception held in their honor. Each received a copy of their film along with a goodie bag. The project was funded by several grants and gained sponsorship from several other organizations.

Alcott Elementary Bids Fond Farewell to Principal Bob Hoffman

Students and staff at Alcott Elementary School held a special assembly last December to bid farewell to retiring Principal Bob Hoffman. Each grade level presented special songs, dances, poems, poster presentations and even puppet shows in his honor. A slide show was also projected for all to enjoy. Hoffman's career in West-

erville began in 1999. In addition to Alcott, he served as principal of Wilder and Hawthorne elementary schools.

Swimming and Diving Invitational Benefits Pancreatic Cancer Research

Last December the Westerville South High School Swimming and Diving Team hosted the N.E.K. Pancreatic Cancer Crush, a high school swimming and diving invitational. The invitational featured teams from 10 Ohio High Schools competing in four different tracks: a diving track; a sprint track; a distance track; and a relay track. All proceeds from the meet were be donated to the Lustgarten Foundation, a not-for-profit, 501 (c)3 charity that funds pancreatic cancer research.

Westerville Students Receive Fouse Awards at Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

One of the highlights of Westerville's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast celebration is the Fouse Award, given to students who exemplify the characteristics demonstrated by Dr. King. These attributes include tolerance, respect, kindness, courage, and tenacity. This year Michael Riebe, a fourth grader at Mark Twain Elementary School, and Arianna Kellum, an eighth grade student at Genoa Middle School, were honored with the award.

Fit Frosties Start the Day with a Jog

When Robert Frost Elementary came up with the idea for a new club that would require students to arrive at school nearly an hour early every Thursday morning to come in and exercise, nobody knew if anybody would show up. However, the first meeting of the Fit Frosties Club was called to order and more than 80 enthusiastic youngsters appeared in the gym, ready to wake up their bodies and brains with warm-up exercises and a jog around the building. The group trains indoors during bad weather and is working toward its goal of participating in a 5K at the end of the school year.





Blendon Students and Staff Celebrate Second Annual Day of Giving

Blendon Middle School celebrated its second annual Day of Giving last December as a culmination of students' efforts to collect items and prepared gifts to give to local people in need. Sixth graders collected care packages and wrote letters of support for military personnel and veterans. Seventh graders collected snacks, personal hygiene products, games, and door decorations for residents at Edgewood Manor Nursing Home. Eighth graders collected cash and gift cards for a Westerville North student undergoing specialized treatment for brain cancer. The Blendon Builders Club Student Council also held a huge raffle featuring more than 90 prizes, including a jersey signed by the entire Columbus Crew 2013 team. The raffle raised a total of \$725 for Westerville Caring and Sharing to help provide for local families during the holiday season. Additionally, Blendon collected nonperishable food items, warm clothing, and holiday decorations to give to WARM for our neighbors.

Wilder Students Dedicate Bench in Memory of Classmate Aria Rowley

Earlier this school year the students, staff and parents at Wilder Elementary School celebrated the dedication of Aria's Bench and the beginning of a new Outdoor Learning Space. Aria Rowley, a 10-year old third grader at Wilder, passed away last school year. Lee Rowley, Aria's father, spoke in remembrance of his daughter and the legacy she left behind. He ended with a quote by Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." Following the dedication, Wilder families went inside to celebrate with pizza, popcorn, cookies and a movie on a jumbo screen in the gymnasium.

Westerville Preschoolers Trick-or-Treat Upstairs in the Early Learning Center

October 31 was a fun day at the Early Learning Center (ELC) both upstairs and downstairs. Approximately 250 preschool students,

dressed in festive costumes, trick-or-treated upstairs in the Westerville City Schools administrative offices. For the first time ever, all preschool classes in the Westerville City School District are being held at one centralized location. Until last year, preschool classes were scattered throughout the district in a number of elementary school buildings. The ELC, which houses 12 preschool classes in the morning and 12 preschool classes in the afternoon, provides the perfect setting for offering top quality educational services to the district's youngest learners.

Fouse Launches New Program to Meet Students' Unique Needs

Fouse Elementary School recently launched the "Playdate with a Purpose" and "Homework Hangout" programs, each of which focus on partnering up families to support the academic and social needs of students. Playdate with a Purpose is for grades K-2 and Homework Hangout is for grades 3-5. The program grew from families casually mentioning they would welcome additional opportunities to help others and from families who were asking for assistance because a work schedule or a language barrier was impacting their ability to help with homework. The school Outreach and Engagement Team worked with the Parent Teacher Organization to create this avenue to link families.



Cynthia Hoskey Brings History to Life for Students at Annehurst Elementary School

Living History presenter Cynthia Hoskey visits fourth grade students at Annehurst Elementary School four times a year to bring the past to life by dressing in period costumes and portraying stories of hardships and celebrations. Throughout her performances she welcomes responses from the children and encourages them to ask questions. She even shares treats that youngsters of years gone by would have enjoyed.



Huber Ridge Elementary Named High Progress School of Honor by ODE

The Ohio Department of Education has named Huber Ridge Elementary School a High Progress School of Honor, based on its 2012-2013 Local Report Card. To become a High Progress School of Honor, a building must first be a Title 1 or Title 1-eligible school with at least 40 percent of its students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. In addition, these schools must rank in the top 10 percent for gains in proficiency, or if high schools, in the top 10 percent in graduation rates. Finally, High Progress Schools of Honor must have an Annual Measurable Objectives grade of C or higher and have met or exceeded Ohio's value-added measure for the last three years.

Emerson's International Night Brings Out the Talent

Billed as "a night to give back to our community, country and world," the program featured a silent auction, raffle, bake sale, wearable art, teacher auctions, third grade Japanese storytellings, and music performances by third, fourth and fifth grade students. Proceeds raised from the event were donated to the PTA to help fund student activities.

Westerville Students Receive 2013 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award

Westerville Central High School freshman Jacob Glorioso and Walnut Springs Middle School eighth grade student Katerini Soisson received the 2013 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award from the Central Ohio Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award, presented as part of National Philanthropy day, honors the people and organizations in the central Ohio community who have touched the lives of others through their philanthropic intent.

Westerville City Schools Earns Clean Financial Audit from State of Ohio

Westerville City Schools has earned a clean audit report from the State of Ohio for the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2013. This means that the district's financial audit did not contain findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or any questioned costs. Audit results reflect the sound financial practices and policies that have been established by the district's Fiscal Services office.

Mobile Dentists Treat Children at Cherrington Elementary

Cherrington Elementary School earlier this school year hosted its third annual Mobile Dentist visit, provided by Smile Programs. Nearly 40 students received dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays and sealants from the mini dental office set up in the school building. The Smile Program has been servicing schools and creating healthy smiles for more than 15 years. All dentists are state licensed and conduct complete dental exams.

Guest Readers Converge at Pointview in Celebration of Right to Read Week

A number of community members volunteered to visit Pointview Elementary School during Right to Read Week and read a story of their choice to inquisitive students. Guest readers who dropped in included Westerville City Schools Superintendent Dr. John Kellogg; School Board members Dr. Nancy Nestor-Baker, Tracy Davidson and Rick Vilardo; State Representative Ann Gonzalez; police officer Phillip Rogers; firefighter Rick Harding; librarian Jan Bravard; City Council member Kathy Cocuzzi; Dr. Linda Dawson; and news personalities Cabot Rea and Mindy Drayer.



GETTING TO KNOW *the Board of Education*



Dr. Nancy Nestor-Baker
President - 2014
Term Expires 12/31/17



Tracy Davidson
Vice President - 2014
Term Expires 12/31/17



Cindy Crowe
Term Expires 12/31/17



Dr. Carol French
Term Expires 12/31/17



Rev. Rick Vilardo
Term Expires 12/31/17

Dr. Nancy Nestor-Baker has lived in the Westerville school district most of her life. She is a member of the Westerville High School Class of 1975 (graduated in 1974) and of the Westerville South Alumni Hall of Fame. Nancy previously served on the school board from 1991 through 2005, during which time she served five terms as board president, two terms as vice president and as board liaison for policy, strategic planning, curriculum and instruction, personnel, governmental relations, facilities and business operations, and communications. Nancy is the Senior Assistant Vice President, Community Engagement at United Way of Central Ohio, where she focuses on community building and collective impact. Additionally, she has a special focus on education, working to strengthen educational opportunities and outcomes for children and youth of all ages. A three-time graduate of The Ohio State University, Nancy holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration; an M.A. in Gifted Education; and a B.S. in English Education.

Tracy Davidson and her family moved to Westerville in 1989. She graduated from The Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology and served as a preschool teacher for both the Head Start and YMCA programs. Tracy is a certified Orton-Gillingham specialist and owner of EXORO Learning Group, which provides reading support to children with dyslexia

and other young struggling readers. She is very active in the community, has served on the Board of numerous school and community organizations, and was honored with a Great Educator Mentor (GEM) award for her work in the Westerville City School District. She has served on organizations such as the Westerville Parent Council (as 1st Vice President), the Board of the Westerville Education Challenge (an anti-bullying organization), the Emerson Magnet PTA (as Parent Council Representative), and the Blendon Middle School PTO, (as Parent Council Representative and Vice President).

Cindy Crowe holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, grades K-8. She is a stay-at-home mother and has served as the Board of Education's delegate of the Ohio School Board Association. She serves on the Education Committee for the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce and is involved in a number of community service activities, including OhioReads, Character Education, the Westerville Education Foundation, Westerville Education Challenge, KidsVoting USA, Read Across America, and the Rotary Club.

Dr. Carol French has been a resident of the Westerville community since 2003. She has served as an administrator in a variety of capacities for over 25 years and holds a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in vocational/administration edu-

cation. She also has an M.A. from Kent State and a B.S. from Ashland University in education. Carol has held certificates as a superintendent, high school principal, vocational director and teacher. She is a member of the Westerville Citizens Police Alumni Academy, volunteers for the Westerville Area Resource Ministry), and belongs to the Westerville Sertoma.

The **Reverend Rick Vilardo** has been a resident of Westerville for 25 years and is the Founding and Lead Pastor of NewSong Community Church. Rick serves on the district's Community Engagement Committee and remains an active school volunteer. He holds a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Divinity in Theology from Emory University and an M.B.A. from Franklin University. Rick has served as a Growth Plus consultant for the United Methodist denomination and as an independent consultant for a national capital stewardship firm, where he utilized his talents to strengthen existing faith-based and other non-profit organizations. His expertise in strategic planning, stewardship campaigning and capital acquisitions enabled scores of non-profits to exceed their goals while staying true to their vision and core values. Rick is a member of the Rotary Club of Westerville and graduate of the Leadership Columbus and Leadership Westerville programs.



After basketball standout Devin Jackson had two successful surgeries, her OhioHealth team is helping her to rebound.

OhioHealth connects team physicians and athletic trainers at Westerville North to top orthopedic specialists at Westerville Medical Campus.

"I had two different injuries that needed two surgeries (at OhioHealth Westerville Medical Campus). I see teamwork there like I see on my basketball team. All the doctors and staff communicate with the athletic trainers at my school and know what's going on. Then they communicate it back to me. It's like they really care."

— Devin Jackson, Junior at Westerville North High School

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