

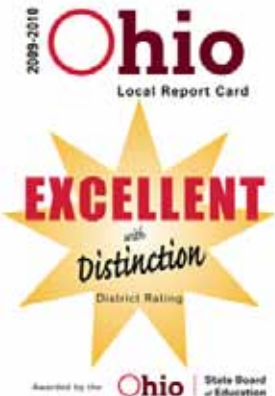


CONNECTION

JANUARY 27, 2011

“The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.”

— Robert Maynard Hutchins



DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT NEWS

- **January is National School Board Recognition Month.** As citizens who serve children and represent their communities, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Yet, few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members' responsibilities. We should recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and focus attention on the crucial role these elected public officials play in the education of our children. They make a difference for students.

On behalf of the students and staff of the West Clermont Local School District we thank our Board members for their dedication to our school district.

January is National School Board Recognition Month.

Hope Wilkinson

(AHS) has been accepted to the Harvard University's Summer School 2011!

Michelle Thomas

(GEHS) is the 2010-11 Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year!



Dan Krueger
Board President



Jo Ann Beamer
Board Vice President



Barbara Hartman



Denise Smith



Doug Young

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **The Amelia Chapter of Business Professionals of America (BPA) competed in various software and skill competitions in January.** These competitions test student's aptitude against schools in Hamilton, Clermont, Brown, Highland, and Adams County. We had 62 students participate in activity based and presentation format competitions such as: Fundamentals of Accounting, Payroll Accounting, Spreadsheet Applications, Database Applications, Presentation Management Individual, Prepared Speech, Administrative Research Project, Advanced Word Processing and Economic Research Individual and Team. Presentations required students to complete research for a paper and/or a PowerPoint presentation on defined topics from the National BPA organization, to fulfill the competition requirements and present them to judges on January 22. The other tests are objective and activity based on the particular area of the test. Students could take up to four tests. After our BPA awards ceremony on January 28, in the Amelia High School PAC we will know which students from our region will be competing at BPA state competitions in March.



AHS seniors taking regional competitions.



Hope Wilkinson

- **Hope Wilkinson, a junior at Amelia High School in the School of Creative Arts and Design, has been accepted into the highly competitive Secondary School Program at Harvard University's Summer School 2011 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.** She will be taking classes alongside college and adult students which explore subjects not available in high school. She will be able to earn college credit in Harvard courses. This experience will afford her the opportunity to work with distinguished faculty, use well-equipped labs and have access to the largest university library system in the world. In addition to taking classes on campus during this seven week experience, Hope will be able to explore all of the historic sites in Boston and New England.



Amelia High School Dance Team.

- **The Amelia High School Dance Team is having a great year!** The team performs at Amelia Boy's Varsity home games. They have also done performances at the Key Club's Holiday Spectacular and the UC Clermont Cougars Basketball game. The seventeen member team is led by seniors **Katie Morgan and Allie Smith.** "We have had so many compliments from both the parents and our student body on our halftime shows" commented senior **Allie Smith.**

- **The Art Club at Amelia High School is growing every year.** The Art Club is a wonderful group of creative, dedicated and kind-hearted students who spend at least an hour a week working on Visual Community Service projects within the school. Earlier this school year, they were asked to help create the set



AHS Art Club members working on the mural on the Choir Room Wall.

decorations for the Key Club's Holiday Spectacular. The Art Club made three 3-dimensional, life-size snowmen, along with more than 100 handmade ornaments for the two pine trees on stage. Currently, they have been commissioned to create a mural on a wall in the Choir Room! The Art Club worked with visiting student artist, **Aaron Porter**, to create an initial sketch. Just last week the club completed drawing the basic sketch onto the large wall using the Grid Drawing Technique. Over the next few weeks they plan to order the paint and begin the final phases of the mural! Everyone is excited to see the completed project. The Art Club has been asked again to help with the stage design and creation for the Drama Club's upcoming Spring Musical. It is always a compliment to be invited to help and they are looking forward to collaborating again with the Drama Club. Students can look for the Art Club's hand in making clown decorations for the hallway for this year's After Prom. It is so rewarding for students to be able to attend these fun, extra-curricular activities and know they have helped make them a success! All students at Amelia High School are always invited to attend Art Club on Tuesdays after school. We would love to add mature, creative thinkers to our already outstanding group of student artists.

- In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, has announced that Michelle Thomas of Glen Este High School is its 2010-11 Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year.** Thomas is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Glen Este High School. The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the racecourse, distinguishes Thomas as Ohio's best high school girls cross country runner. Michelle is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award. Thomas has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and a devoted parishioner at her church, she is an accomplished dancer and has volunteered locally on behalf of food and clothing drives for area homeless. Thomas has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at The Ohio State University beginning this fall.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- Julia Santoro, a student in Jennifer Gasser's seventh grade language arts class at Amelia Middle School, wrote the following poem for a class assignment.** In light of the social problems that most teenagers are faced with today concerning bullying and social acceptance, we think that this poem speaks for most teenagers.

- The Glen Este High School boys and the girls bowling teams are in first place.**

With only two league matches remaining, the Trojans are in the driver's seat to win the FAVC for both genders.

Last week, the boys won the FAVC Season Tournament and **Jared Brewer** bowled a 300.



Michelle Thomas

Recipe Poem: "Gossip" By Julia Santoro

*1 nontoxic harmless action
 1 "He said, she said"
 Multiple backstabbing comments
 of your choice
 5 exaggerations
 Rumor
 1 Smirk
 Jealously
 1 cup of guilt
 1 Conscience
 1 Misunderstanding
 Multiple confessions
 Dash of opinions
 Any amount of anger*

*First, take a nontoxic harmless action.
 Fold in a "He said, she said"
 Add some backstabbing comments
 Stir together for 2-3 minutes until blended.
 Mix in 5 exaggerations for flavor.
 Add a sense of Rumor and spread it around evenly
 Sprinkle in a smirk
 Simmer jealously until restless and nonstop
 Slowly blend in the cup of guilt
 Ball up a conscious in one small bowl
 Knead in a misunderstanding
 Bake in the confessions to add intensity to the recipe
 Dash on opinions for flavor
 Spread your anger over the cooled "Gossip" and let sit
 And serve secretly through comments, phone calls,
 and friends with your own Twist*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- **If you visited Amelia Elementary during the past week, you might have noticed students being assessed in basic reading skills.** Three times yearly, students are given the DIBELS assessment in order to determine how well a child is learning skills that are necessary in order to become good readers. We are working hard at school to make sure that every child is on target for success, and we thank our Amelia families for their continued efforts at home. Together, we will help your child become a successful reader.
- **The fifth grade teachers at Brantner Elementary received a Target field trip grant to visit the United States Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.** Students will participate in a hands-on workshop entitled "Toys in Space" as well as complete a scavenger hunt based on space exploration.
- **Clough Pike fifth graders learned about the slow process of erosion using a stream table.** The students were able to see how the water moved the sand just like a stream moves sediment to change the surface of the Earth over time.
- **Clough Pike Elementary is getting ready to start up their Cinderella's Closet.** They will be collecting gently used "party" dresses (size 4T to pluss size) and dressy shoes for little girls who may not otherwise be able to buy a new dress for the upcoming Father-Daughter dance in March. To donate, please drop off items at Clough starting next week. Last year, leftover dresses were given to a school with a dance held at a later date. If you have any questions, please call **Dewilda Little** at 943-6700.



Amelia Elementary second grade student Jason Stover gets some help from Mrs. Burgess.



Clough Pike fifth graders Brooke Koehnke, Reagan Jokovich, Will Keszei, Summer Palmisano and Brad Smith observe the erosion process.

- **The Third Annual Clough Pike Walking Club began their 25 mile training on January 5.** The students will log 25 miles on their Hog Logs until the final mile on April 30 on the Flying Pig Marathon course. This year's membership has grown to 135 students from 40 the first year. **Mrs. Gretchen Bayer (preschool), Mrs. Christine Wright (kindergarten), Mrs. Cindy Tinkham (first grade), Mrs. Nancy Edmondson (second grade), Mrs. Mimi Ladenburger (third grade) and Mrs. Beth Testa (fifth grade)** along with many dedicated parents are training with the students this year. The group will walk through the school halls until the weather improves. Then training will move to Veterans' Park.



Fifth graders Tori Frye, Megan Willenborg, Brooke Koehnke, Jill Patrick and Lauren Kresser begin training.

- **Mrs. Gray's preschool classrooms at Clough Pike Elementary will be spreading a little love at Cincinnati Children's Hospital** this Valentine's Day through the "Spread the Love" program. Each student made a special card for the children who are hospitalized on Valentine's Day. The students worked on their cutting, drawing, printing and fine motor skills with **Mrs. Losey**, Occupational Therapist, to create a unique and fun card. These cards will send Valentine wishes to the children who will be missing their Valentine parties at school.



Children in Mrs. Gray's morning preschool classrooms at Clough Pike Elementary display their Valentine's Day cards.

- **Bring on the coins!!! The students and staff of Clough Pike Elementary are at War right now ... that is, a Penny War!!** The competition started Monday and will continue through the end of the week. Money raised by the coin war will be used to help cheer up **Mr. Johnson**, Clough Pike's Head Custodian, and his family.



The coins are adding up in the Clough Pike Penny War!

- **Third graders in Miss Crawford's class at Willowville Elementary enjoyed using the SmartBoard** to learn about homophones and words with multiple meanings. Students sorted words into categories by clicking and dragging words with their fingers, answered multiple choice questions, and even wrote sentences on the SmartBoard. Willowville is looking forward to having SmartBoards in all their classrooms next school year so our students will have access to this technology on a daily basis.



At Willowville Elementary, third grade student Abby Miller uses the SmartBoard to write sentences showing different meanings of the word "trip."

- **Willowville Elementary's long standing tradition of Family Sports Night** continued last week as kindergarten, first and second graders teamed up with family members or friends to compete in seven different activities. The top three in each grade level were awarded with medals. Family Sports Night has been a staple at Willowville for 20 years. It brings friendly competitiveness along with precious time spent with family and having fun on a cold winter's night. Because of the snow days, third, fourth and fifth grade got to compete on the 25th. Family Sports Night ranks in the top three activities at Willowville,

along with the Memorial Day Parade and the Walk-a-thon. When asked why it's so popular, the students unanimously answered, "because we can do it with our families!"

- **Withamsville Tobasco Elementary had their Martial Arts Kick-off.** Students gathered for an assembly led by Mike Franzen from Martial Arts America to promote an upcoming after-school Karate program. During the assembly students learned a few karate skills. The program will run for four weeks beginning in February.



Mike Franzen demonstrates some karate moves.



Willowville third grader Madeline Diana takes on the standing long jump while her brother, Jake, waits his turn.