

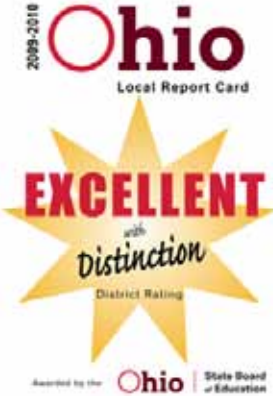


CONNECTION

JANUARY 6, 2011

“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.”

— Albert Szent-Gyorgyi



DISTRICT NEWS



Dan Krueger
Board President



Jo Ann Beamer
Board Vice President



Barbara Hartman



Denise Smith



Doug Young

DISTRICT NEWS

- **January is National School Board Recognition Month.** Boards of Education are a mature and tested institution in Ohio. School board members make policy; approve contracts with employees; choose curriculum; adopt budgets; and select a superintendent, treasurer and business manager to administer the district. They do all these tasks with the emphasis on what’s best for the children they serve.

Being an effective school board member is no easy task, particularly in today’s climate of change and challenge. School board members need to be knowledgeable about many complex educational and social issues, and carry out initiatives and directives from both federal and state governments. To face these demands of governing our public schools, they give countless hours of personal time.

A public board of education is a legislative body of citizens elected locally by their communities. Most Ohio school boards consist of five or seven members who serve four-year terms of office. Through dedicated, responsible endeavors, school board members serve the public interest in public education – and serve the needs of our kids. They ensure that decisions about public schools are made as close to the needs of our communities as possible. Their public service is an excellent example for young and old alike of the tradition of volunteerism that is a hallmark of American society.

This January, our local communities are invited to honor the contributions and dedication of their school board members – those locally elected citizens who make decisions that affect, influence and direct the education of our youth. Let’s say “thank you” to those who participate in what is perhaps the purest form of grassroots democratic principles upon which our republic was founded. Our school board members do make a difference in our community, for every child, every day.

AHS student
Christopher Lau,
nominated for
the US Military
Academy at West
Point!

Ian McKee GEHS
student winner of
voice scholarship
from the Forest-
Aires women’s
chorus!

- **For the fourth year in a row, fifth grade students from across the district had the opportunity to attend a Fine Arts Sampler program.** High school musicians and dancers performed in an hour-long program that showcased opportunities that await the elementary students. Highlighted in this year's program at the Glen Este High School Performing Arts Center were the orchestra, marching band, concert band, several choral groups and dance troupes. In attendance were fifth graders from Brantner, Clough Pike, Summerside and Willowville.

The Amelia High School program had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather. It will be held at 10:00 a.m. on February 17 at the AHS PAC. Fifth graders from Amelia Elementary, Holly Hill, Merwin and WT will attend. Performances will include the orchestra, concert band, jazz band, choral groups and drama teams.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown has announced his nomination of 50 Ohio students to U.S. Military Service Academies and Christopher Lau,** Amelia High School, was nominated for the US Military Academy at West Point!

"Ohio schools are training leaders for the next generation of military personnel. I am honored to nominate these outstanding students for our prestigious U.S. Military Service Academies," said Brown. "These Ohioans embody the integrity and courage needed to represent well and uphold the values of our nation. I am grateful for their dedication to serving our country."

Each year, Brown nominates up to ten students for each service academy requiring congressional recommendations. These are Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy, the Military (Army) Academy at West Point, and the Merchant Marine Academy.

The nominations are based on the recommendations committee assembled by Senator Brown. This committee, comprised of former academy graduates, parents of academy attendees, and community leaders from throughout the state, conducted rigorous interviews before selecting the final candidates.

- **Amelia High School senior Erin Hancock** has earned two additional academic honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. First, Erin was selected to the 2010 NSCAA High School Girls Soccer Scholar All-East Region Team. Erin was one of only 32 girls soccer players in the East Region to receive this award. She was in contention to be an NSCCA Scholar All-American. Only one other Amelia Baron has earned the NSCAA Scholar All-American Award, and that was **Sarah Vinson.**

Erin also earned the "Senior Excellence Award" from the NSCAA for "exceptional contributions to the team while exemplifying the finest attributes of a high school student athlete in girls soccer at Amelia High School." Erin will receive a certificate and the school will also receive a certificate for display. Congratulations to Erin Hancock!



Fifth grade students enjoyed a performance from a student orchestra at the sampler.



A choir representing several West Clermont singing groups performed at the sampler.



Christopher Lau



Erin Hancock

- **The Amelia High School football team collected food and purchased toys to help families that need an extra hand at Christmas time.** The items were distributed to families in the Amelia area. Another example of the generosity of our athletes!

- **The Amelia High School faculty and staff continued a yearly tradition of collecting money to help needy students and their families during the holiday season.** This year \$1,430 was collected and 24 families were given gift cards. Also another tradition continued this year which was the collecting of hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, toys, personal care items, etc. These items decorated the tree in the Amelia High School front office and then were donated to the James Sauls Homeless Shelter.



AHS football players support local families.

- **Art I students at Glen Este High School studied aspects of the Japanese Tea Ceremony focusing primarily on Ceramics.** Students applied a variety of Ceramic techniques to form Japanese tea bowls and tea pots. Throughout this project students learn and observe how ceramic pieces transform through five different stages or properties of clay: wet, leather hard, bone-dry (otherwise known as green ware), bisque, and glazed.



The Glen Este Dance Company, under the direction of Anne Erwin, performed at halftime at the University of Cincinnati Boys Basketball game on December 14.

- **Ian McKee of Glen Este High School was one of six high school students named as voice scholarship winners from the Forest-Aires women's chorus.** The Anderson Township area chorus awarded the scholarships, which include voice lessons and a solo in the group's annual concert in April. Since beginning the program 48 years ago, the Forest-Aires have funded voice scholarships to more than 230 high school students. Ian is also selected for the Ohio University Honor Choir Festival in January at OU, as a Bass II.



Sophomore Savannah Collins and junior Trent Martin finish forming a tea bowl.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **The Amelia Middle School eighth grade football team completed an undefeated season this past fall.** The Barons scored 215 total points during the season for an average of 27 points per game. Their defense gave up only 30 points all season and shut out 5 of their 8 opponents. The eighth grade team was lead to a record of 8-0 by their captains: Chandler Hauke, Carter Hounshell, Garrett Weaver, Sean Stewart and Nathan Seebohm. The AMS seventh graders also had a successful season in which they finished with a record of 5-2.



Team Picture (left to right): Row 1: Brenden Reese, Anthone Dulaney, Hunter Maynard, Alex Tobertga, Kody Bronson, Brett Greenough, Mason Blankenship. Row 2: Coach Adam Collinsworth, Brandon McNamee, Wade Hauser, Corey Gastrich, Keiton Ventura, Anthony Eads, Nick Rothel, Kaleb Halcomb. Row 3: Nathan Seebohm, Ryan Hatfield, Jacob Matthews, Kasey Nipper, TJ Troxell, Matt Armacost, Noah Adams, Russell Lehn, Coach Mike Rosa. Row 4: Coach Gary Bronson, Chandler Hauke, Sean Stewart, Alec Marcum, TJ Reed, Chris Runski, Garrett Weaver, Carter Hounshell, Christian Walker, Coach Ryan Mathis. Not pictured: Taylor Meyer, Justin Brown and Ty Nicodemus.

- **Mrs. Maynard’s sixth grade math class at Amelia Middle School put their knowledge of decimals and percents to use** by pretending to take three of their friends to Frisch’s and determining how much it would cost with tip and tax. They then used this information to create a small poster to display their data.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- **Amelia Elementary fifth grade science classes learned about the International Space Station.** After discussing the station and watching a video of the astronauts holding their Christmas tree in space, students were able to send electronic post cards to the Expedition 26 Crew Members. What a great way to make someone’s day that is very far from home during the holiday season! Here is the link for you to do the same. <http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/postcard/>
- **The second graders at Amelia Elementary spread some cheer in December by participating in the Holiday Mail for Heroes program** through the American Red Cross. Each student made a holiday card for a soldier, decorated it, and wrote their own message inside. The cards were mailed to the Red Cross distribute to troops stationed all over the globe.
- **Students in Mr. Spangler’s Gifted and Talented Resource Room at Brantner Elementary had their first Architecture By Children Club meeting.** Over the next several months students will work with architect Juliana Thompson from the firm RWA Architects to design and build a model to solve a real life design problem. This year’s Architecture By Children theme is sacred spaces. The completed models will be displayed for a week in April at the downtown branch of the Cincinnati Public Library.
- **The fifth grade teachers at Brantner Elementary received a \$1,000 Learning Links grant to support math and science education.** As part of this grant Brantner will host a math and science night for students at all grade levels. Parents will be invited to come and participate in this hands-on event.
- **This is the fifth year that Mrs. Slone’s first graders at Clough Pike Elementary have participated in a service project the students like to call “Chores for Change.”** Mrs. Slone’s class adopted a senior citizen from Clermont County Senior Services. For 10 days, the children did extra chores at home for change and bills. Daily, the students counted the pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and bills, and kept a running tally of the money they were earning. With the money they earned, the class was able to purchase items their senior needed. The class also wrote friendly letters and hopes to be pen-pals with their senior the rest of the school year.



Left to right: Maria Shadoan, Kylie Smith, Brooke Young, (Background) Kylar Ruege, Anita Silburn and Ben Beck.



Electronic cards are sent to Expedition crew members.



Excited second graders prepare to mail their “Hero Letters.”



Mrs. Slone’s first graders display the gifts they bought.

- The week of December 13 Clough Pike Elementary had an amazing display of what is called "The Caves" at the school.** Art teacher **Mrs. Downie**, her student teacher Lauren Newman from NKU and first through fifth grade students created the project. "My student teacher was Lauren Newman from NKU," stated Mrs. Downie. "As part of her experience, Ms. Newman had to take on a leadership project. After showing Ms. Newman pictures of Monet's Garden at UC, the Egyptian tomb and the rainforest that Mrs. Downie had done before, she wanted to try her hand at an environment as well. That would qualify for her leadership project. Ms. Newman used a variety of materials, especially clay. Her ideas for her project had a prehistoric theme to it, so the cave idea was the result." The students, staff and visitors were amazed by the walk through the caves!



Clough Pike halls become "The Caves."

- Clough Pike Elementary fourth grade teacher Linda Weiman went to Vietnam over Christmas break to photograph a friend's wedding.** Before she left, Weiman and Principal Pat Crahan worked on setting up a Skype connection with Weiman's class. The first morning back from winter break at 9 a.m. (9 p.m. Vietnam time). Weiman's class Skyped with her in Vietnam. She shared videos of the hotel she stayed at along with pictures of the surroundings in Phnom Penh.



Linda Weiman talks to her students through Skype from Vietnam with the help of Principal Pat Crahan and teacher Kim Bischoff.

- Holly Hill Elementary had two more Zoo visitors.** A red shoulder hawk came to school along with a turtle. Students enjoyed learning about the habitat and life of the hawk. The turtle was very active and friendly to everyone. The Zoo Outreach program is very educating and entertaining. They will be visiting several more times with different animals. So far we have had a screech owl, corn snake, hedgehog, hawk and turtle. Can't wait to see who is coming next!



Zoo Outreach visits Holly Hill Elementary.

- Merwin Elementary students were preparing for the big day by shopping for their parents and siblings at the annual Merwin Santa Shop.** All classes were assigned a day and time to shop. This opportunity is provided by the Merwin PTO. Each item is \$1.50. This year an anonymous donor sent in gift certificates for some shoppers. The shop closed for this year on December 21. Mrs. Jenny Pera is the chairperson of this event.



Merwin's Annual Santa Shop.

- Merwin's first grade Girl Scout Daisy Troop #40411 participated in two activities to service the community.** In November, they crafted hand-made cards to deliver to the Yellow Ribbon Support Center in Eastgate. While there, each girl packed a box full of supplies to be sent to troops stationed out of the country. For doing this they earned the "Considerate & Caring" petal patch. In December, they visited the New England Club Retirement facility on Beechmont. While there they sang Christmas carols. For doing this they earned the "Make the World a Better Place" petal

patch. Daisy Troop members are: **Ellie Arkus, Jenna Begue, Cora Day, Jessica Day, Brianna Jeremiah, Ciara Lukemire, Mia Madden, Zoe Naegele, Tatum Scanlon, Kylie Servitto, Paige Williamson, Norah Wilmarth** and leader, **Laura Naegele**.

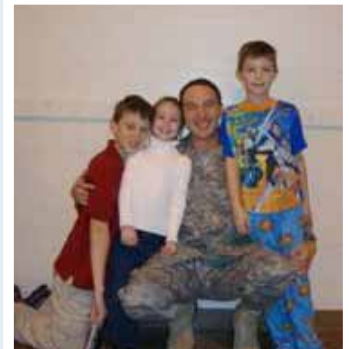
- Merwin Elementary students were treated to a very special surprise on the last day before winter break. Matthew Harper (fourth grader), his brother Michael (second grader) and preschool sister Emmy were preparing for a Christmas holiday without their father who was serving overseas.** When their father was deployed, their mother brought the family to spend the year with her parents in Cincinnati. Matthew and Michael brought a huge card to school for the students to sign. Matthew had carried the card from classroom to classroom asking students to thank their father for his service to our country. At the assembly, the boys were asked to come forward as the principal, Mrs. Hospelhorn, talked to the student body about the importance of honoring our soldiers. She asked the boys what they intended to do with the card. They replied that they were going to send it to their father. Mrs. Hospelhorn suggested that instead they just give it to him. They turned around to see their father standing behind them. There was not a dry eye in the gym as the boys threw their arms around their father. It was a great Christmas present! TSgt. Harper will be home until the middle of January at which time he will return to complete his year overseas. Mrs. Harper is a graduate of Amelia High School.

- For more than 15 years, Merwin fifth graders have wrapped gifts they have collected for senior citizens in Clermont County.** The gifts consist of toiletries and everyday items the seniors need such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant. Merwin PTO helps fund this project. Students assemble the items in boxes and gift wrap them for the holiday. The students usually march into the gym showing off their beautiful packages and then enjoy singing with the Clermont County Senior Band. But this year, a snow day spoiled the assembly for the very first time and the groups were not available again before break. Students were so disappointed that fifth grade teachers asked Mrs. Hospelhorn to schedule an assembly where students could tell Merwin students about their gifts and allow them to sing the music they had prepared for the seniors. They talked about how proud they were to do the community service and encouraged them to do good deeds for others.

- Remember in December when we had a lot of snow? Well, so do we!** But as they say, the show must go on, and it did for Summerside Elementary's first grade Christmas Play and Bell Choir program. On Monday, December 12, the first grade students performed the "Littlest Christmas Tree" to a packed



Daisy Troop #40411 sings at the retirement facility.



A surprise reunion for Merwin students.



First grade cast and bell choir.

house at school. Students also played several seasonal favorites such as Silent Night and We Wish You A Merry Christmas as well as the Star Spangled Banner on the bells. Thanks to **Miss Deckert, Ms. Burke**, and all the first grade teachers for their help putting on this successful show.

- **Willowville students were greeted by caroling staff members!** Students at Willowville received a warm welcome to school on a chilly Thursday morning, December 23, with staff singing favorite children's Christmas songs. Everyone enjoyed this festive time. The day ended with a wonderful sing-along led by West Clermont By Request. The staff would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted that day and to those who provided items. Your generosity was greatly appreciated!
- **Thanks to the generosity of many families and Girl Scout Troop #49197, Willowville Elementary gave the gift of warmth to many in need.** Under the supervision of the Student Council Members, Head Custodian Jim Needles set up their annual tree in the front lobby and proceeded to fill the boughs with seven scarves, 44 hats and 72 pairs of mittens and gloves. Many of the hats and scarves were handmade. Willowville has been continuing with this wonderful tradition for more than 20 years!
- **During the last week before Winter Break, Withamsville Tobasco Elementary students celebrated with "dress-up" days.** The days included Holiday shirts, headgear and holiday attire. On "Jammie Day" students treated Mrs. Schmidt to Christmas carols throughout the day.



Willowville students were greeted by singing staff members!



The Christmas tree at Willowville Elementary was laden with gifts of warmth for the Woman's and Children's Shelter. Over 200 items were collected.



WT principal and students enjoy "Jammie Day."