



# CONNECTION

OCTOBER 21, 2010

“The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.”

— Winston Churchill



## DISTRICT NEWS

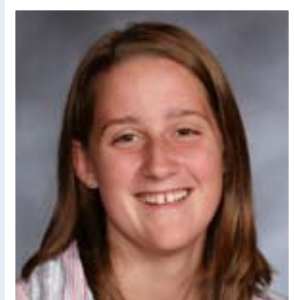
- **The West Clermont School District hosted Greater Cincinnati’s first Edcamp Cincy at Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary School** on October 9. Sixty educators from eight districts from around the city spent the morning sharing resources, problem solving, and networking. **Kathy Stemmer** (AE) said, “Edcamp Cincy was a great professional development experience where educators became collaborators and opened the door to new connections, a larger knowledge base, and ongoing learning. We can’t wait to do it again!” West Clermont participants included **Cheryl Koehler, Tammy Marcotte, Scott Morgan, Jeff Riel, Julie Schneider, Joe Stahl, Joan Stear, M.E. Steele-Pierce, Kathy Stemmer, Cheryl Turner, Alicia Walls, LeAnna Webber, and Matt White.**



Amelia Elementary teachers Tammy Marcotte, Kathy Stemmer, Cheryl Koehler, and Julie Schneider joined educators from around the region at Edcamp Cincy, a unique professional development forum hosted by West Clermont.

### HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **CONGRATULATIONS to Chuck Elliot and Danielle Lowery!** Both Amelia High School Senior Artists have been chosen to exhibit their work at the Xavier University Semi-Annual Regional High School Art Exhibit. A jury panel works together to select the best artwork from all submitted. Not all work is accepted. This is a very prestigious honor for Chuck and Dani. The show will open at Xavier University Friday, November 12 from 6-8 p.m.



AHS Fall  
Choir Concert  
October 27

Glen Este  
Dance Company  
October 30

- **The Amelia High School Fall Chorus Concert will be presented on October 27 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.** Plan on attending and support our outstanding students!
- **The Glen Este High School Marching Band competed at Western Brown on October 16.** The Band won Second Place Band in Class AA and First Place Color Guard in Class AA. The Marching Band will compete at Mason on October 23 at 4:15.
- **The West Clermont Dance Company has officially changed their name to the Glen Este Dance Company.** The Glen Este Dance Company will be presenting "So You Think You Can Choreograph?" on October 30 at 7 p.m. The audience will vote on the best student choreographed number. The winning number will be featured at our spring show in May. The cost is \$5 or \$3 if you donate an old cell phone or print cartridge. Also, the Glen Este Dance Company was featured on Fox 19 news on October 15 during the school pep rally.



- **The Glen Este High School Thespian Troupe will be participating in Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat.** Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat (TOTS-EAT) is the International Thespian Society's (ITS\*) annual nationwide community service initiative to collect food for the hungry. With the help of over 280 Thespian troupes, more than **330,000 pounds** of food were collected during the 2009 TOTS-EAT food drive. Please join us in giving back to the community, "because hunger is a very scary thing." If you wish to help us out you may drop off canned food items in room 461 at Glen Este High School or call Michael Williamson at 947-7635 to arrange a time. Last year Glen Este High School collected 4,892 pounds of food. We hope to exceed that total this year.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **Gabby Hager, a student in Erin Cupito's eighth grade social studies class at Amelia Middle School,** brought her family traditions to school. Gabby and her family shared information about their Indian heritage with classmates from Team 8200. They dressed in full Native American attire, played music and discussed the relationship of the Indians and the English settlers at the beginning of the thirteen colonies.



Gabby and her family (left to right): Phillip, Mamma Telia, Jennifer Cropper, Gabby Hager, and Tim Cropper.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- **Amelia Elementary "Wild West Fall Fest" was a huge success!** The event was a night to remember... surprise visits from Star Wars characters and Snoopy... great music... pony rides... inflatable fun... games and prizes... cake walk... yummy food and time spent with friends and family. There was a great show of support from PTA representatives, local businesses, parents, grandparents and staff members in order to make the festival a success. The Amelia Elementary staff personally wants to thank our community for volunteering their time in order to make this an evening of fun for our Amelia Elementary students!



Jasmine and Jonathon Smith party with Star Wars characters.



Amelia kindergarten students get twisted up in their letter making.

- **Miss Michael's kindergarten students at Amelia Elementary are learning about letters and sounds.** Students use their bodies to create the letter of the day. Can you make the letter "F" with your body? AE kindergarten students are letter making champs!!
- **The students in Miss King's fourth grade science class at Brantner Elementary** learned the parts of a flower by drawing and labeling one and then "planting" it in their garden. Creativity and learning go well together!
- Brantner Elementary's **Students of the Month for September:** Kindergarten: **Brooke Sanderson, McKay Hammond**; 1st grade: **Justin Rowland, Skylar Kutcher, Mercedes Poling**; 2nd grade: **Ben Tauber, Lauren Ballard, Jasmin Santiago**; 3rd grade: **Jared Lammert, Audrey Bard**; 4th grade: **Sophie Geier, Troy Walters, Ryan Trainor**; 5th grade: **Tyler Reeves, Destin Smith, Diana Iredale.**
- **Fifth graders in Beth Testa's science classes at Clough Pike Elementary** dissected owl pellets and participated in other activities to learn about food chains and webs. The students found many shrew and rat skeletons in their pellets. One student said that his mother really enjoyed the dinner table conversation. The students took their skeletons home in egg cartons.
- **Clough fifth graders had a great time at Camp Campbell Gard!** The students enjoyed archery, canoeing, orienteering, animal adaptations and river study. They also experienced what life of a runaway slave would be like during a nighttime Underground Railroad reenactment. Students and adult chaperones went through a 12-stop hike where YMCA counselors took on roles of sheriffs, abolitionists and slave traders. The students agreed it was their favorite activity, but rated the food as the overall favorite thing about camp.
- **Students in Mr. Mahoney's and Mrs. Rees' third grade class at Merwin Elementary** enjoyed a Kona Ice treat one hot afternoon as their reward for bringing in the most pledges at the Merwin PTO Walk-a-thon.



Griffin Reece, Sierra Rittenhouse, Destiny Test, Sophie Padgitt, and Aryn Cisco display their flower



Brooke Koehnke and Jill Patrick dissect owl pellets.



Enjoying the river study are Clough fifth graders, Emma Losey, Chris Wilson and Paul Rammel.



A Kona Ice treat on a hot afternoon!

- Merwin students were treated to a visit by COSI on Wheels October 12 and 13.** All students attended an assembly in the morning and then participated in hands-on experiments about "What's Wild." COSI's visit to Merwin is provided by the PTO and organized by Mrs. Sheila Speth.
- Summerside Elementary held their annual Walk-a-thon fundraiser on October 15.** Students, families, staff, PTO and volunteers all walked together to raise funds for Summerside. It was a beautiful fall day for walking and the fundraiser was a great success. The students raised over \$8,600 for Summerside Elementary and had a great time making new friends and getting some fresh air.
- During science class, the second graders at Willowville Elementary** spent time comparing similarities and differences of the same kinds of plants. Each group was given two of the same kind of plant to observe with a magnifying glass. Some students even had the opportunity to take a closer look at some insects crawling around on their plants. After careful observation, the children dissected their plants and investigated the various structures. They reported their findings on a graphic organizer and had fun being scientists for the day!
- Everyone who attended Math Carnival Night at Willowville Elementary** enjoyed the games and prizes. Students from kindergarten to fifth grade participated in a variety of educational math games. Parents were able to learn how to play the games that their children play in class. Every family received copies of directions and game boards to continue their friendly learning competition at home. Each grade level sponsored a decorated booth that turned the multi-purpose room into a carnival of math activities. Partial sums algorithm and lattice multiplication were taught using the new Smart Board technology.
- Second graders at Willowville Elementary recently learned about the arid desert** while reading a selection from their new Reading Street books. Similarities and differences between the desert



Examining the pelt of a big black bear are (from left) Merwin third graders Olivia Hill, Jackson Cotner, Carter Reynolds and Brandon Ligon.



Emmaline Moore, Emma Phipps and Rylee-Jade Simmons walk and make new friends.



Jeremy Heuberger and Nathan Hance (Mrs. Miller's class) compare their plants for similarities.



Alexa Rouse, a third grader in Mrs. Corotis's homeroom at Willowville Elementary, and her dad enjoyed learning how to play Fraction Capture.

and the rain forest were found. A surprise guest reader, Andy Armadillo (AKA Mrs. Miller's son, Brad) came to read *Armadillo Rodeo* by Jan Brett using the school's new Smart Board technology. Texas Roadhouse is promoting literacy by distributing certificates to each student in the school for a free kid's meal. To earn the certificate, kids must read 3 books. Andy Armadillo wants kids to "Read `em Up & Eat `em Up!"



Andy Armadillo demonstrates his skills using the Smart Board.

## HIGHLIGHTING THE CONSTITUTION

**Students at Brantner Elementary have been engaging in various types of learning activities about our United States Constitution.** The youngest patriots in first grade celebrated Constitution Day by having a discussion about what the Constitution was and why we have it. Pictures of Independence Hall, the Colonial Flag, and the Constitution were part of the learning. The students completed a T chart comparing today's flag with the Colonial Flag.

The entire second grade citizens got together and watched a Brainpop video about the Constitution using Brantner's new portable Smart Board. An interactive quiz was taken after the video and the students got all of the answers correct!

The third grade citizens listened to a passage from the Constitution and learned the major reasons it was written. A book titled *We the Kids*, which is the Preamble to the Constitution with kid friendly pictures, was read and each line discussed to understand the meaning. The students were prepared to complete a crossword puzzle with key words from the lesson such as "constitution," "citizen" and "rights."