



CONNECTION

OCTOBER 22, 2009

“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.” — James Baldwin

DISTRICT NEWS

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- **The construction at the new Amelia and Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary schools** is progressing by leaps and bounds towards the 2010 school year completion date. The final brickwork at Amelia Elementary is under way and temporary doors are being installed as part of the “drying” process, which is when a building project moves to the stage where the building is completely sealed off from the weather.

At Withamsville-Tobasco, much of the interior infrastructure is taking shape, with plumbing, electrical and HVAC work nearing completion. Finishing work is also being completed on much of the buildings exterior brickwork.

- Students in the 21st century need to think critically, creatively and collaboratively. **To learn more about 21st needs in teaching and learning**, a West Clermont team of Board members, administrators and teachers recently participated in a regional event at Xavier University. Featured speakers included former North Carolina Governor, Jim Hunt; Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction, Deb Delisle; and Executive Director of Battelle for Kids, Jim Mahoney. West Clermont is part of a local collaborative in partnership with High Aims. Our participation contributes to the building of a regional vision for 21st century teaching and learning.

- **The West Clermont Board of Education has re-scheduled a regular meeting.** The regular meeting scheduled on Monday, November 2, has been re-scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at the Union Township Civic Center.



Amelia Elementary



Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary



West Clermont Board members, administrators and teachers at High Aims presentation.



Construction
Headway!

COSI Visits
Merwin
Elementary

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- Students in the **West Clermont Institute of Performing Arts (WECIPA)** on the Glen Este High School campus had a day off from their regular classes on Oct. 12. If their parents agreed to take their children’s place for the day, the students could stay home and not be counted absent. Parents were responsible for taking class notes, handing in assignments that were due, participating in class discussions, and anything else that was expected of the students. Thankfully for the parents, no tests or quizzes were scheduled for the day WECIPA calls “Mirror Monday.”

Campus Principal **Mr. Dennis Ashworth** and School Director **Ms. Debbie Hobbs** weighed in with their support for the program and look forward to community feedback. Small School Coordinator **Mr. Joe Libis** sees great value in bringing parents on board. “Teachers all know, and research confirms, that the more parents are involved in their kids’ education, the better kids do in school. Our goal is to make parents our partners by expanding their first-hand knowledge of our school. The more parents know, the more they’ll feel involved.”

Students had to prepare their parents by briefing them on

1. Locker locations and combination
2. Lunch: provide a brown bag lunch or lunch money
3. Use of student I.D. and Agenda Book as restroom passes
4. Books and materials needed for classes
5. Copies of their schedules with room locations

Libis did not want this to be just another version of “Open House” or “Meet the Teacher.” WECIPA students take a demanding academic load both in core subjects and in Arts electives. “When parents learn first-hand just what it takes for their kids to get through a typical day, they come away with a deeper appreciation and understanding of high school in the 21st century. And they’ll also learn how challenging it is to get from Chemistry class on one side of the campus, rush to change into their Dance class clothes and be on time in the Dance Studio on the other side in just five minutes, all the while lugging a 50-pound backpack.”

- **The Glen Este Varsity Football team** will celebrate Senior Night this Friday during their home contest against Harrison. Game time is 7:30 p.m.
- **The Amelia Varsity Football team** will play at Turpin this Friday 7:30 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **Mrs. Ackerman, Mrs. Jeffcott and Ms. Metzger’s** seventh grade science classes at Glen Este Middle School spent the day at the Cincinnati Nature Center investigating the components of a healthy forest by comparing two different forests. Students also conducted a scientific investigation hypothesizing which habitat would have more spiders. Students sampled a field site and a forest site. The entire seventh grade will analyze their results because they have learned that with repetition results are more valid.



On Mirror Monday, Jasmine Smith and her mother Michelle Smith learned CPR skills in Mrs. Joan Stear’s WECIPA Advanced Personal and Community Health Class.



A Cincinnati Nature Center volunteer works with Glen Este Middle School students Trent McKenzie, Tatiana Alejandro, Alex Kleimeyer, Abby Waldmann, Samantha Asbury, Logan Jacobs and Jessica Dmochowski.

According to Bill Creasey, Chief Naturalist at the Nature Center, "The teachers from Glen Este Middle School had the best prepared students we have ever had in the 36 years I have been here! The students were engaged, on task, and truly focused on the day as an extension of their classroom experience." The teachers who were responsible for this success were: **Kendra Ackerman, Erin Metzger, and Julie Jeffcott.**

"This was definitely one of the best organized and successful groups to study and learn here at CNC Rowe Woods," stated Creasey. "We all look forward to working with similarly prepared groups from Glen Este Middle School next year. These teachers are a credit to their profession. They are the model of all groups we would hope to have visit us."

- In **Ms. Becker's seventh grade language arts class** at Amelia Middle School, students examined the stages of a plot. Along with stories from the textbook, students were divided into groups of three or four and given a picture book. One student read the book aloud while the others listened attentively. Once the book was finished they were to complete a graphic organizer and identify the stages of the plot concerning the book.
- **Eighth grade students at Amelia Middle School** have begun the groundwork for the NaNoWriMo Contest. The month of November is National Writing Month and eighth graders at Amelia Middle School are taking this observation seriously! Students who enter the NaNoWriMo Contest will write a 50,000 word novel during the month of November. Mrs. Ford has created a writing club that meets after school to help students with this huge task! Club members discuss helpful strategies for how to cope with writer's block, how to use the NaNoWriMo website as a guide, how to keep track of their word count, how to develop overall writing ideas, and obviously, to write! To sign-up or to get more information about this great feat, visit: <http://www.nanowrimo.org>.



Anthony Eads and Kaleb Halcomb analyze the plot of a book.



Amelia Middle School Writer's Club members Jordan Glinsek, Katie White, Jessica Owens and Chelsea Hill.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- Through a partnership between the **Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Amelia Village Police**, third grade students at Amelia Elementary received instructions on the importance of safety belts. The theme of the third grade program was "What's Holding You Back?" Officer Coby of the Amelia Police Department challenged students to increase their efforts to share the important message of buckling up every time, for every trip.

Children learned about the importance of safety belts and air bag safety through demonstrations, discussion, and hands-on activities. Children were made "Safety Belt Deputies" and pledged to wear his/her safety belt and to remind others to wear theirs as well.

- **Fall Festivals:**

- Oct. 23: Amelia Elementary 6:30-9 p.m.
- Brantner Elementary 6-9 p.m.
- Holly Hill Elementary 6-9 p.m.
- Merwin Elementary 7-9 p.m.

Oct. 24: Clough Pike Elementary noon-6 p.m.



Officer Coby talks to third graders about safety belts.

- **Brantner Elementary School** will be holding a Holiday Craft Show on Dec. 12 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Crafters are still needed for the show. Booths are available at \$30 per booth. Email reynolds_t@westcler.org for more information.
- **Willowville Elementary School** held a walk-a-thon on Oct. 2, 2009. In all, \$16,229.96 was raised by the students to support their school.
- **The second grade teachers at Amelia Elementary** received a grant for \$1,000 from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for the annual book making project, "Let's Write Like Writers!" The students draft, edit, and illustrate their stories, then they are sent off to a children's book publisher to be bound into hardback books.
- **Miss Van Eman's kindergarten class** at Amelia Elementary celebrated learning all their colors by wearing their favorite color to school. The students played Go-Fish Color, made a classroom graph to find out their favorite/least favorite color, and created a color book with classroom objects.
- Last week the **Union Township Fire Department** visited the preschool classes at Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary. The students had the opportunity to see the fire trucks, an ambulance and equipment. They also saw what a fireman looks like with his gear so that they won't be afraid to go to him in an emergency.
- **Through the partnership of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and Tata Sons Limited**, students of three elementary schools in Clermont County recently welcomed COSI on Wheels into their schools for hands-on science exploration. Amelia Elementary and Hill Intermediate School participated in the What's Wild program, and Merwin Elementary enjoyed the Investigating Energy program.

"We are so excited and appreciative to have this opportunity for our students," said **Jackie Hospelhorn**, principal of Merwin Elementary.

COSI on Wheels, a traveling outreach program of the COSI Columbus Science Center, engages students in a dynamic opening assembly and interactive science activities aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards and the National Science Education Standards.

Students were visited by Dr. Kilowatt to learn about creating energy and making good energy choices while others discovered animal habitats and how wildlife biologists use technology to study and manage animal populations. "High costs can often prohibit student



Emily Glassburn and Allison Price at the Willowville walk-a-thon.



Amelia Elementary kindergartners enjoyed learning about their favorite colors.



A firefighter shows Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary students what an officer in fire gear looks like.



Students at Merwin Elementary studied energy. In this case, they measured how wind can be used to generate electricity.

field trips,” said Cara Dingus Brook, Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) President and CEO. “By bringing the experience directly to schools, FAO is ensuring our region’s youth have access to the educational opportunities necessary for success and opening the doors to future career paths.

As a regional community foundation serving the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio, the Foundation works to ensure growing up in Appalachian Ohio means having access to opportunity. By working with a variety of partners, including Tata Sons Limited, FAO is making sure Appalachian Ohio has the funding necessary to make our goal a reality.

- **Clough Pike Elementary fifth grade students** have been very busy. They dissected owl pellets, explored the Web of Life with Judy Krebs from Clermont Soil and Water, and survived Camp Campbell Gard. Many students canoed for the first time. They made candles, ice cream and pioneer toys. The students also played the part of runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad.



Clough Pike Elementary students carry a canoe to the water.