



CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 18, 2010

“The world is a beautiful book,
but of little use to him who cannot read it.”

— Carlo Goldoni



West Clermont
shines at Capital
Conference

Operation Zero
begins 23rd year



Coffee & CONVERSATION

West Clermont Superintendent
Dr. Gary Brooks and Board President
Dan Krueger invite you for ...

Coffee and Conversation

Saturday, November 20
8:00-10:00 a.m.
Great Scott Diner
106 East Main Street, Amelia

Saturday, November 27
8:00-10:00 a.m.
Everything Bagels
792 Eastgate South Drive #200

You bring the conversation; the coffee is on us!



Rachel Hagley



Wynton Overcast



Ali Hock-James, Anthony Clark, Eric Burger, James Collins, Erin Hancock and Tim West.

DISTRICT NEWS

- **At the November 15 meeting of the West Clermont Board of Education**, the Board members and District administration recognized Glen Este High School students, **Rachel Hagley**, National Merit Semi-finalist and **Wynton Overcast**, National Merit Commended Student. Also recognized were Amelia High School's, **Anthony Clark**, SBAAC (Southern Buckeye Athletic/Academic Conference) Player of the Year in Boys Soccer; **Erin Hancock**, SBAAC Player of the Year in Girls Soccer; **Ali Hock-James**, SBAAC Player of the Year in Volleyball; **Eric Burger**, SBAAC Coach of the Year in Boys Soccer; **Tim West**, SBAAC Coach of the Year in Girls Tennis, and **James Collins**, AHS Athletic Director, for receiving the 2010 Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award. This is the sixth time James has received this prestigious award!
- **West Clermont was invited to present at the Ohio School Boards Association Annual Capital Conference on November 9.** The Teaching & Learning Department presented "Professional Development on a Shoestring." **M.E. Steele-Pierce, Cheryl Turner, and Tanny McGregor** featured nine no-cost, low-cost web-based tools the Teaching & Learning has used for teachers and administrators during the past year. "We're looking to be cost effective and time efficient as well as model 21st century teaching tools," said Dr. Steele-Pierce. Their handout is at <http://tlcommunity.blogspot.com>.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **The Union Township Kiwanis will be beginning the 23rd year of Operation Zero on November 17.** Operation Zero is a driving safety program aimed at high school students that combines education, incentives to participate and high expectations for participating students. Students must maintain good school attendance and a safe driving record to participate in the program, which culminates in the spring with the giveaway of a free new car to one lucky student chosen at random.

Throughout the series of seminars, students participating in Operation Zero learn about some common dangers that face younger drivers, specifically distracted driving. The seminar series will kick off on November 17 at 7:30 a.m. at Glen Este High School and at 9 a.m. at Amelia High School.

- **Ms. Beth Bloom's Journalism II/Newspaper class at Amelia High School** spent a morning at the Cincinnati Enquirer production warehouse downtown on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. Students had an opportunity to speak with Julie Engebrecht, local news director at the Enquirer. Engebrecht provides insight for students interested in pursuing journalism at the college

level as well as the future of print media. Students learned of the importance of using social networking platforms such as Twitter and Facebook as a supplement to having a monthly print newspaper. Production Director **Kevin Matthews** spoke to students about the Enquirer's efforts to print newspapers in a more eco-friendly way.

Steve Neiheisel, production manager, gave students a tour of the warehouse allowing students to see all aspects of newspaper production. Students saw the creation of printing plates – and then saw the usage of these plates to print the Enquirer's entertainment weekly, Metromix. Following the tour, Neiheisel and Matthews joined students for lunch and answered a variety of questions.

Maddie Trubee, MAST junior, felt this was a worthwhile experience: "This was a good experience for my classmates and I to actually see what goes into creating a newspaper – and the outcome and all of the people who put hard work into it." She and her fellow classmates learned that "it is not just about the writers [of a newspaper.]"

- **The Amelia High School Key Club inspired the student body to raise more than \$900 in October for the Pink Ribbon Girls**, a local support group for young women fighting breast cancer. The money is raised through a Penny War and through the sale of Pink Day T-shirts. The Key Club gave away weekly prizes of Polar Pops, Chipotle, and movie tickets to the Pierce Point Theatre through a drawing of those who had donated as little as one penny. The winning class, the seniors, will receive an ice cream social on November 24. In addition to the money raised, Key Club also sought to educate the junior and senior girls by hosting a Pink Day where the Pink Reaper and Pink Fairy visited one class every bell to "kill" a girl every 12 minutes of breast cancer, reflecting national statistics, and to award girls with survival through self-exams and mammograms. At the end of Pink Day, Andrea Bashear of the Pink Ribbon Girls spoke with the junior and senior girls about the organization, her own personal story, and how to prevent and survive breast cancer.

- **On Wednesday November 10, Kelley Benhase, a senior pitcher for the Glen Este Fastpitch softball team**, signed a National Letter of Intent with the Northern Kentucky University to continue her education and play softball for the Norse. Kelley has been All FAVC first team for three years and a Player of the Year. She has also been named first team All City for the past two years. During her three year career at Glen Este High School, Kelley has compiled a 51-7 record, with 715 strikeouts and an earned run average of .41 while maintaining a 3.61 grade point average. Kelley plans on studying Education at NKU.

- **The Glen Este Athletic Boosters are having a Christmas tree sale** on Saturday, December 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Glen Este High School. Come out and support the Glen Este athletes by purchasing your 6, 7 and 8 ft. tree!



Sarah Blankenship, Wendi Watkins, Hadiza Itapson, and Tamara Lynch get a tour of the warehouse from Steve Neiheisel, production manager. Photo by Maddie Trubee.



Janet Floyd, the Pink Fairy takes on Michael Brooks, the Pink Reaper.



Sitting: Denise Benhase, Kelley Benhase, Dave Benhase. Standing: Dan Simmons, Athletic Director, Brad Benhase and Coach Tim Gregory.

- **Students in James Mason’s class at Glen Este High School** created “Thank A Veteran” posters to be displayed in the hallways. The participating classes identified all of the major U. S. wars and the causes and effects of each. Students were divided into small groups and each group was assigned one of the wars or conflicts. Each group analyzed the causes and effects of their assigned war or conflict and then listed and explained on their poster three or more reasons why the people of the U.S. should thank the veterans of that war or conflict.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **There has been much excitement surrounding the new science textbooks** at Amelia and Glen Este Middle Schools! The new Pearson “Interactive Science” books are truly revolutionary! Students can write in their book to keep a personal record of their learning! They can read, write, graph, draw and self-assess all in one place! In addition, students have become active participants in their learning with digital and online lessons! They are also able to log on at home to view the entire textbook, complete assignments online or to get additional help on any subject! Students love it and so do the teachers!
- **The Caught in the Act Program has started at Glen Este Middle School.** Students can receive CIA tickets from staff members for being prepared, participating, being responsible, and/or being helpful. Each week there is a drawing and one lucky winner per grade level is selected. Prizes include gift certificates to the Rave Theater, free sundaes at Graeters, and passes to Cherry Grove Lanes. We would like to thank our sponsors. Without their donations we would not be able to recognize our students. A special THANK YOU to Borders, Graeters, Cherry Grove Lanes, Scallywag Tag, Buffalo Wings and Rings, UDF, Chick-fil-A, Golden Corral, and Rave Theater. For more information and updated prize information go to www.gemscounseling.weebly.com.

- **The students at Glen Este Middle School participated in the national Mix It Up at Lunch Day** on Tuesday, November 9. Students were called to action by taking a different seat in the cafeteria. By taking a risk, this one day, students can cross the lines of division in a safe, controlled environment, meet new people, and help build an inclusive and welcoming school community. The theme of our first Mix It Up Day was “Mix It Up Music”. The atmosphere for this Mix It Up at Lunch was very festive. Music played in the background as the students got to know each other at their tables. PTO sponsored the event with food items (such as cookies and other treats) and spirit wear that was raffled off to the students.



Andrew Terry, John Abrams and Josh Warren work on their poster researching the Vietnam War.



Amelia Middle School seventh grade science teachers: L to R- Jessica Montunna, Maria Hatfield and Teresa Mason display a copy of the new Interactive Science Student Workbook.



Principal Kevin Thacker mixes it up with Brooklyn Shahan, Breanna Ruschman and Rickey Curtin.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- Fifth graders in Mrs. Hennessey's and Mrs. Kratzer's social studies classes** at Amelia Elementary created Treasure Maps to demonstrate their knowledge of map skills and landforms. The maps were a culminating activity for the Geography unit. Students chose themes for their maps including "The Hunt for Glam" – "Candyland" – "Halloween," and many more. They added a variety of landforms and map features including a scale, compass rose, map grid, and a map legend. A writing piece was also included with the maps. Students had to write directions to the hidden treasure! They were very excited to share their finished products.
- Clough Pike second graders in Mrs. Blamer's and Mrs. Edmondson's classes** experienced a virtual field trip to Plymouth Plantation on November 16. During this live webcast students learned all about the first Thanksgiving as they listened to members of the Wampanoag tribe and Pilgrims. Students learned all about the Wampanoag's and Pilgrims' daily life. During the webcast the homes, games, clothing, and cooking of the Pilgrims and Wampanoag were compared and contrasted. Students also learned what it was like on the Mayflower.
- Thursday, November 18 will be Clough Pike Cougars night at Everything Bagels.** Everything Bagels will be donating 50 percent of the sales to The Clough Pike Kids Care Club which will use the money to buy items from the schools Holiday Wish Tree and send holiday packages to our troops. The event will run from 3-8 p.m. There will be Clough Pike art work and raffles including spirit wear and spirit spot bucks! Please come out and support our school and our community. Thank you Everything Bagels for this AWESOME opportunity!
- On November 5, NED the YoYo Man visited Holly Hill Elementary.** The NED Show showed students tricks and fun with yoyos. He also made balloon figures and hats. Yoyos will be on sale for students for the next couple of weeks. The Yoyos make excellent stocking stuffers if anyone is interested in purchasing them. They range in price from \$6.50 TO \$15.00.
- The Firefighter Phil program along with two CJFD firefighters Jeff and Greg visited Holly Hill** on November 12. Magician Tom held his students captive when he performed his magic acts and taught children about fire safety. A very important thing he explained is you need to have a fire escape plan at home just like we do at school. He stressed the importance of practicing this plan like we practice fire drills at school. Magician Tom also taught them about stop, drop and roll if their clothes catch on fire. Students enjoyed this program and look forward to having them back next year.



Madison Daniel and Dawn Cooper work on their treasure maps.



Clough Pike second graders visit Plymouth Plantation through webcast.



Ned the YoYo Man shares yoyo tricks with Holly Hill students.



Magician Tom uses magic to teach Holly Hill students about fire safety.

- **On November 10 students from Holly Hill** received a reward for meeting learning and behavioral goals during the first quarter. The students enjoyed "Once Upon a Character," offered by the Friends of the Groom Theater Company from Milford. The students were spellbound by the engaging presentation of four world folk tales that explored the traits of responsibility, respect, caring and giving. This was the first of four programs students can earn during this school year by improving their attendance, grades and learning behaviors. Congratulations to all that earned this awesome treat!
- **Merwin Elementary annual Veterans' Day Assembly was held November 10** in the school gym. Several students invited veterans from their families. Several members of the Marine Corps came to celebrate their 230+ birthday! Each grade level had a special salute. **Mrs. Hospelhorn** received several calls and emails commending students for their behavior and performances. **Mrs. Holmes**, Merwin music teacher, was in charge of the celebration.
- **Dr. Don Kaufman and Cecilia Berg from the Oxford Society presented Summerside Elementary fifth grade teachers** with a sculpture entitled, "Race to the Sea." The sculpture represents hatchling green sea turtles leaving the nest and making their way to the sea. For the past seven years the fifth grade students have participated in an end of year penny war to raise money for the Oxford Society. The \$6,000 raised so far has been used to assist with a green sea turtle population recovery program in Costa Rica. The recovery program seems to be succeeding, with more adult turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs each year.
- **Willowville Elementary's 2nd Annual Art Fair was held on November 9.** Art teacher **Pam Hall** did an outstanding job in organizing the event. Students worked diligently during their art class to prepare their projects. Students from K-5 exhibited their work for all to see during the evening viewing. The parents and the community joined together to celebrate the incredible expression of creativity from the student body. It was a wonderful evening and a great opportunity to come together and support the children.



Holly Hill students enjoy a presentation by the Friends of the Groom Theater Company.



Merwin Elementary School fifth grader Garrett O'Rourke presents the U.S. Flag at the annual Merwin Elementary Veteran's Day Celebration.



Don Kaufman from the Oxford Society presents a sculpture to Summerside fifth grade teachers Mr. Koller, Ms. Shaw, Mr. Duff and Miss Fink.



Willowville Elementary art teacher Mrs. Pam Hall with artists Izzy Stidham, Cameron Rolsen and Samantha Rolsen.



During the annual fifth grade overnight trip to Camp Campbell Gard, Kaaisha Richardson and other students get to touch a Chinchilla.



Withamsville fifth graders pose with their teacher, Mrs. Sunderman, before they started the challenge course at Camp Campbell Gard.

- **Each year Withamsville-Tobasco fifth graders enjoy the opportunity to spend time at Camp Campbell Gard.** Nestled along the Great Miami River, Camp Campbell Gard has both the professional staff and excellent facilities to provide an unforgettable experience. The overnight includes outdoor educational programs and team building activities. A great time is had by students and staff!



- **Withamsville students Lexi Termuhlen, Kennedy Brennan & Kylie Brennan** shop during the book fair in the WT library. Profits from the book fair will be used to support PTO projects.