



CONNECTION

DECEMBER 16, 2010

“Reading is thinking with a strange head instead of one’s own.”

— Arthur Schopenhauer

DISTRICT NEWS

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• **The Coffee and Conversation series for 2010 continues** this month on Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Chick-Fil-A at 874 Eastgate North Drive. The time for the event is 8-10 a.m. Come out and visit with Superintendent **Gary Brooks** and West Clermont Board President **Dan Krueger**. The coffee is on us!

• **At the Dec. 13 meeting of the West Clermont Board of Education**, Glen Este High School senior **Michelle Thomas** was recognized for being the Division 1 Girls Champion in Cross Country and for placing at the State Meet each of her 4 years at Glen Este. Last year as a junior, Michelle won the 3200m run at the OHSAA State Track meet in Columbus. Michelle has verbally committed to run Cross Country at The Ohio State University. Michelle narrowed her choice to OSU after considering offers from several schools, including Illinois, Miami of Ohio, Ohio University and Illinois State.

A 4.05 student at Glen Este, Michelle plans on studying Education at Ohio State. She will officially sign at the February NCAA signing date.

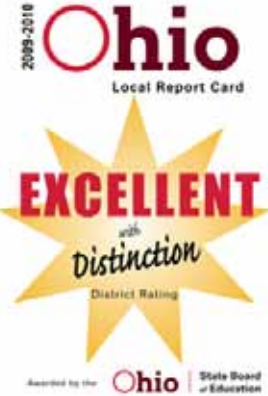
Also recognized at the meeting were staff members who have completed 30 years of service. The Board presented Certificates of Recognition for the dedication and commitment to education displayed by the following outstanding staff members: **Marla Hart, Neil Frank, Jeanne D’Argis, Rick Colwell, Martha Jackson and Sue Hamilton.**



GEHS Athletic Director, Dan Simmons, Mike Thomas, Michelle Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Jamie Thomas, Coach Angie Carson and Board President Dan Krueger.



Superintendent Gary Brooks, Marla Hart, Sue Hamilton, Neil Frank and Board President Dan Krueger.



Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season

WC Board recognizes GEHS senior Michelle Thomas

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **The AHS Drama Club/ Thespian Troupe #6332 donated \$814 and more than 1,500 pounds of food to Grace and Mercy Outreach in Amelia.** The success of the annual Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat (TOTS-EAT*) food drive is due to the generosity of the greater Amelia community, including our parents, students, staff, and the community-at-large. Donations were collected at school and community events: the Powder Puff football game in September, a school wide food drive (with the assistance of the AHS student council), trick-or-treating for donations, and a student versus staff volleyball game.

**TOTS-EAT is the International Thespian Society's annual nationwide community service initiative to collect food for the hungry. This year's nationwide TOTS-EAT collection total was 348,065 pounds.*

- **On Dec. 1, 11 Glen Este High School students went to Summerside Elementary for the Walk-a-Thon rewards breakfast.** While there, the students discussed the importance of doing well in school, their roles on the athletic teams at Glen Este, and some of the expectations of middle school and high school. The students were: **Mike Kennedy, Kyle Turner, James Mikolay, Collin Pitman, Austin Duncanson, Savanna Daniel, Stacy Donley, Kelsey Foster, Leeann Malucky, Brandy Neal and Taylor Sturgeon.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **Students in Vikki Henshey's eighth grade language arts class at Amelia Middle School** completed a novel project on Character Traits after reading their choice of a fictional book. While considering their project, they were asked to focus on two factors: One of the Multiple Intelligence Profiles and a level of Bloom's. They presented a variety of projects including: board games, a handcrafted doll, posters, scavenger hunts, a song with instrumental accompaniment, videos, power points, and even a homemade cake in the shape of a pair of jeans (*Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*).



Mr. Osborne's Core 1 seventh grade class competes in the tug-of-war.

- **The Glen Este Middle School Student Council sponsored a canned food drive Dec. 6-10.** As part of the food drive, there were competitions between the first core classes to bring in the most cans which included a tug-of-war! Last week there was a pep rally with opportunities for Core 1 classes to earn extra points towards the competition. Winners were: **6th grade: Ms. Kinney's Core 1, 7th grade: Mrs. Ackerman's Core 1, and 8th grade: Mrs. Gorman's Core 1.** Glen Este Middle was able to collect about 2,672 food items that will all be donated to the Clermont YWCA Food Pantry.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- **Santa Claus took a break from his Christmas preparations for a special weekend appearance at Amelia Elementary on Dec. 1.** Students enjoyed a yummy breakfast of eggs, doughnuts, biscuits and gravy and had an opportunity to meet and take a photo with Santa and do some Christmas shopping at the holiday shop. Many thanks go out to Santa Claus, the PTA, parent volunteers, and staff members for making this a wonderful memory for the Amelia Elementary community.
- **Brantner Elementary students are enjoying a little extra help with their education.** Tutoring Partnerships, a partnership with Mt. Carmel Christian Church, helps students after school every Tuesday and Thursday at the school. **Leslie Barton**, a retired West Clermont teacher, directs the program for the church. About 10 students currently participate in the program.
- **The annual Giving Tree is up and running at Clough Pike Elementary.** Each year Clough helps many families who, for various reasons, are struggling with the economy. There are paper ornaments on the tree with specific needs of family members written on them. Those who want to help can take an ornament, purchase the item, wrap it, and return it to the school for distribution. Along with the Giving Tree, Clough has a food drive which includes paper products, health and beauty aids, cleaning products, as well as food items. These items will go to those in need as well.
- **Third graders at Clough Pike Elementary recently raised more than \$400 for the long-term care unit at Children’s Hospital.** This is the seventh year that the third grade at Clough has raised money to help the children in the long-term care unit. Students donated money from chores and home allowances and held a class bake sale to raise the funds. Throughout the seven years, the parents and grandparents of Clough Pike Elementary have shown a lot of support in helping the students to raise money for sick children.



Second grade student Kacey Berryhill lets Santa in on what he wants for Christmas this year.



Tutor Janie Ashert helps Trevor Cole with his studies.



Bake sale workers were Nick Hunt, Austin Kresser, Tara Rammel, Jacob Florence, Dante Kirchner, Katelyn Jennings and Isaiah Herzner.



Clough Pike’s Giving Tree.

- **Merwin Elementary third graders entertained family and friends last week** at the annual Merwin Holiday Musical. The program was led by music teacher **Kate Holmes**. Students danced and sang their way into the hearts of the audience as they prepared everyone for the holidays.
- **Last week all Summerside Elementary second grade students celebrated by holding a pajama day at school!** Students earned this reward by filling their classroom "marble jars" by making good behavior choices as outlined by our school wide code of conduct: "Effort, attitude and good choices lead to excellence and success; by following this code students are responsible, respectable, and accountable as Summerside students." Well done second grade! Congratulations to **Mrs. Cann's, Miss Hyde's, and Mrs. Gebauer's** classes.
- **On Dec. 11, Santa Claus came to Summerside Elementary** for a visit with the children and their families. The children made a craft, got their faces painted, colored Christmas pictures, listened to recorder music and, for the first time, could shop for a loved one at this year's PTO Santa Breakfast. **Mrs. Austin** (aka Santa's elf helper) would like to thank everyone who attended this year's event and especially the volunteers who made this PTO event a huge success.
- **The Holiday Season is alive and well at Summerside Elementary!** All of the students are getting excited and ready for their winter break. The festive decorations on the office window lure the children to peep in at the office staff.
- **Summerside students in grades kindergarten-second grade** enjoyed a visit from their grandparents last week at Summerside Elementary. Grandparents of the younger students were invited to visit their grandchildren in class and accompany them to the school-wide book fair. The students enjoyed shopping with their grandparents and then doing school work together. Grades 3-5 will have a grandparent's day celebration in the spring.



The Merwin third grade recently performed their annual Christmas Musical.



Sydney Riley, Logan Hilton, Layne Puett, Juliana Elfar, Johanna Cervantes and Maggui Flores enjoy a pajama day at school!



Santa with Makenna and Madison Brown.



First grader Kaylin Coyne and her grandmother Mary Adams enjoy grandparent's day at Summerside Elementary.



Liam Bell, Faith Clark and Magen Dewitt can't resist a peep through the window.

- **With the help from the fifth grade students at Willowville Elementary**, the kindergarten students in Mrs. Clark's class wrote letters to Santa this week. The kindergarten students in **Mrs. Clark's and Ms. Burnett's** classes were thrilled to have the fifth graders help, as it was someone they look up to. They worked for a half hour writing their names, making a short wish list and talking about their holiday break. SSSSHHHH! It's a secret, but the fifth graders will write back to the kindergartners as Santa's secret helpers. The kindergarten students are looking forward to receiving the letters from Santa's secret helpers.
- **Good role models were chosen at Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary** as the first quarter recipients of a Bully Free T-shirt. One student is chosen from each class and they are recognized at a school wide Bully-Free assembly held each quarter at WT. The PTO purchased the shirts as part of the OLWEUS anti-bullying program. At the assembly, each grade level reads the Bully Free Promise and a video is shown from each grade level on what it means to be/or how to be a "Good Buddy," not a bully.
- **Withamsville Tobasco Elementary's Jingle Bell Jamboree was held on Dec. 11.** This event, sponsored by the PTO, was a huge success. The morning activities included concerts held by the first, second, fourth, and fifth grade students, led by WT's music teacher, **Laura White**. A Secret Santa Shop gave children an opportunity to purchase gifts for their families. No cost activities included face painting and storytelling; children could have their photo taken with Santa's Elves. Craft tables were set up for the children to make ornaments, puppets and wreaths to take home. The students really enjoyed the "Snow Ball" area in the gym where they could run, play and throw "snow" inside on a winter Saturday morning.



Willowville fifth grade student David Jones helps Mahson David, kindergarten student in Mrs. Clark's class, write his letter to Santa.



Good role models McKenna Bachelier, Lauryn Balwanz, Kelsey Bose, Max Bose, Devon Boykin, Natalie Bravo, Kayla Brose, Korrin Dougherty, Kelsey Drew, Jude Lehman, Nick Pennington, Roger Rivera, Grace Roe, Caeley Rutlegde, Dawn Stimec, Raegan Warneford, Tiffany Waller and Josh Williams.



Caitlyn King and Ivy Zinser pose with their purchases from the WT Santa Shop.



Talen Yoakum works at the craft table making a wreath.



Destiny Crim gets a snowflake painted on her face by Mrs. Schmidt.