



CONNECTION

MARCH 24, 2011

“You cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

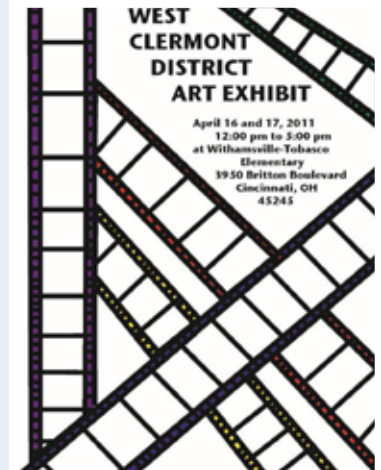
— Franklin Delano Roosevelt



DISTRICT NEWS

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- **The West Clermont District Art Show will be held on April 16 & 17 at Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary School.** Exhibits will be open from noon to 5 p.m. daily. Artwork from all 12 West Clermont Schools will be featured.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **The Glen Este Concert Band was very successful at the Ohio Music Education Association District Concert Band contest on Friday March 19 at Harrison High School.** The Concert Band received a Superior rating which advances the Concert Band to the State OMEA Contest on April 29 and 30. The Concert Band received straight superior ratings from all judges on stage performance and an excellent rating in sight reading. Studies have shown that music education leads to greater success in school, success in developing intelligence, and success in life after graduation. Congratulations to **Mr. Philipot** and the students on their superior performance, and we look forward to the continued success of the band programs at Glen Este!
- **The Performing Arts Boosters are holding their Second Annual Mulch Sale.** All proceeds benefit AHS Band, Choir, Drama, Orchestra, and the Performing Arts Scholarship Fund. Students are selling Black Platinum Mulch for \$4.50 per bag, with an optional delivery within the West Clermont School District for \$15. The mulch sale runs through March 31 and the pick-up date is Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Amelia Campus parking lot. Payment may be made by cash, check or credit card. For your convenience, credit card orders may be placed on line at the Performing Arts Boosters' website <http://www.ahspab.com>. For more information, visit the Boosters' website or contact AHS PAB president, **Dave Olmstead**, at 513.617.0906 or via email at president@ahspab.com.
- **Members of the athletic department at Glen Este High School recently participated in the grand re-opening of the Wellington Orthopedics and Sports Medicine clinic on Glen Este Withamsville Road.** The clinic, which specializes in sports related injuries, has worked closely with West Clermont athletes over the years. "We have a good working relationship with them," said

West Clermont
District Art Show
April 16 & 17.

Glen Este High
School Concert
Band receives
Superior rating!

Glen Este Athletic Director **Dan Simmons**. "They recently expanded their office and now have several more therapy areas and machines, as well as an indoor batting cage to help athletes rehab." Wellington currently provides an athletic trainer that works with athletes at both Glen Este and Amelia High Schools. According to Simmons, the trainer can diagnose injuries and in many cases, treat minor ones at the school for free. Should an injury be severe enough, the trainer can recommend a physician visit.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **On March 12, both of Amelia Middle School's Destination Imagination Teams took first place in their Challenge Category Competition.** This victory advances each team to compete in the State Tournament held in April. The teams competed against middle schools from all over the region including: Forest Hills, Mariemont, and Oak Hills. The first team, The Nerdy Ninjas, led by **Tina Glanz** won a building challenge where they had to create a structure that would hold as much weight as possible. The Destinators won their performing arts challenge and were also awarded the coveted Da Vinci Award for extraordinary creativity and innovation. All the AMS students conducted themselves with maturity and responsibility and represented their school well!
- **The Glen Este Middle School RTI (Response to Intervention) teams** have been working hard at developing positive behavior supports at the school to recognize students for being respectful, responsible and active. Recently, the school recognized the academic achievement of students through the Status Card Program by holding grade level assemblies. In order for students to earn a gold card, they have to have straight A's and a 4.0 GPA for the second quarter (per grade). Students can also earn a purple 3.5 GPA and white 3.0 GPA card and a red card for perfect attendance.
- **During a class meeting on March 18, all Glen Este Middle School eighth grade students participated in an activity called The Power Shuffle led by Robin Hater**, GEMS school counselor, and her intern, **Brittany Vinson**. This activity is from an experience called Challenge Day and was featured on the MTV show, "If You Really Knew Me." Students are challenged to look beyond their differences to see how they are alike. Mrs. Hater called out different categories or experiences to the group and if the students felt that this group or experience applied to them, they crossed a line drawn on the floor. They were then asked to notice how it felt to cross that line. Mrs. Hater and Miss Vinson challenged the eighth grade students to Notice, Choose and Act. To notice what is going on, make the choice to do something about it and then make a difference in their school.



GEHS cheerleaders help celebrate the grand re-opening.



Back row: Skye Vaske, McKenna Adams, Zach Tobergta, Justin Haught, Meghan Williams, Hunter Reynolds and Steven Glanz. Front row: Caroline Rakestraw, Hailey Lau, Ryan Davis and Grant Lyon. Not pictured: Frank Lyon.



GEMS eighth grade gold card students.



GEMS students play the Power Shuffle.



GEMS January Students of the Month. GEMS February Students of the Month.

- **On March 16, Glen Este Middle School honored their January and February Students of the Month with a breakfast in the library.** Parents and students were invited to breakfast with Principal **Kevin Thacker** and assistant principal **Denise Amiot**, which was provided by Everything Bagels. Each student was presented with a Student of the Month Certificate from Ms. Amiot.



Amelia Elementary fourth grader Justin Gerber, and his big brother Andrew.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- **In November, Julie Schneider's fourth grade class at Amelia Elementary wrote letters and sent holiday wishes to a soldier in Afghanistan.** This soldier was **PFC Andrew Gerber**, a graduate of Glen Este High School. His brother, **Justin**, is a student in Mrs. Schneider's class. Andrew came home on leave, surprising his mom and brother. He visited with the students and answered all of their questions. The students were so excited to get to talk to him. It was a wonderful afternoon and everyone appreciated Andrew's time. The class wishes Andrew the best as he prepares to return to Afghanistan.



Sean Jones sees "force and motion" in action.

- **The third grade students in Mrs. Thornton's class at Brantner Elementary had so much fun while learning when they created their "puff mobiles" with their intern, Mrs. Heather Smith.** Making the puff mobiles involved the use of: 1 piece of paper, 1 paper bag, 4 Life Savers mints, 2 straws, 2 paper clips, and some tape. Force and motion were the learning objectives for this activity. The students blew their puff mobiles for 10 seconds and then used a ruler to measure how far the puff mobile traveled. Observation of classmates demonstrating their force was exciting to watch.

- **Girl Scout Troop 40835 based out of Clough Pike Elementary was quite successful with their food drive this past February.** This was not your typical food drive. "For The Love of Pets" was a pet food drive that benefitted the local Cincy Pet Food Pantry. The girls were able to collect over 100 pet food items, including cat food, dog food, cat litter, specialty foods



Girl Scout Troop 40835 from left to right: Katelyn, Emily, Nicole, Summer, Skylar, Kelsey, Brittany and Liza. Not pictured: Eva, Hannah and Emma.

and treats. A big thank you goes out to Clough Pike Elementary for helping the troop to complete this service project.

- **Students in Mrs. Jones' and Mr. Spangler's Gifted and Talented Resource Rooms** recently used their geometry and leadership skills to complete a fun activity called Class Shapes. Students held ropes between each other to make a large loop. The classes were challenged to arrange the students and ropes so that different shapes were made. At the end of the activity the loop was "cut" and the students were challenged to work together to tie the knot without letting go of the rope.
- **On Monday, March 14, Mrs. Whittymore, P.E. teacher at Holly Hill,** gathered her top cup stacking students for the Cup Stacking Championship of 2011. There were 17 students from the third, fourth and fifth grades who qualified for the championship. All the students from Holly Hill attended this nail-biting competition. As the students began to drop out one by one, it was left up to five finalists. They were: 5th place: **Katie Howard**; 4th place: **Julie Tansy**; 3rd place: **McKenzie Wagner**; 2nd place: **Destiny Barnes**. 1st place went to **Kendall Simpson**. Kendall received a \$20 gift certificate to McDonalds; Destiny, a \$10 certificate to McDonalds; and the other students received \$5. The students had a great time. This is an annual event. Kindergarten through fifth grade practice and participate in the cup stacking. Cup Stacking improves eye hand coordination and also helps fine motor skills. This activity engages all of the students from the littlest hands to the biggest hands. The kids love this activity and look forward to it every year.
- **Art Reach brought Children's Theater to Merwin Elementary on March 13.** It was provided by Merwin PTO. Students were treated to *Rockin Peter Rabbit*. Students enjoyed the music, singing, and story about Peter Rabbit who disregards his mother's warning not to go to "the farm." Peter gets caught in the farmer's trap and must be rescued by his father, Elvis Rabbit. A big thank you goes out to the Merwin PTO!
- **Students in the Gifted and Talented Resource Room at Merwin Elementary and Holly Hill are working to enhance and refine their leadership skills.** This teamwork activity challenged students to put together a puzzle; a seemingly simple task, except that other team members had some of their pieces. Students soon discovered the importance of communicating and working together to finish the job!



Clough Pike fourth graders Sebastian Vega, Braden Steele and Trey Fryman.



Seventeen Holly Hill students from the third, fourth and fifth grades qualified for the championship.



Art Reach brings Children's Theater to Merwin Elementary.



Holly Hill students Makayla Rowe and Hunter Shepherd work together putting a puzzle together.

- Fluent thinking is important when using your creativity!** Gifted and Talented students at Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary used the Smartboard to display a list of "Things that are Reusable." They also displayed their flexible thinking skills as demonstrated by the various topics and categories they used. See if you can add to the list!
- The fourth grade students in Mrs. Flanigan's class at Willowville Elementary have been learning about fractions.** They began by making connections to how fractions of numbers compare with each other by using fraction cards from their Everyday Math workbook. The students compared the fractions and identified fractions that were equal, less than another fraction, or more than another fraction. With the fraction cards, they were easily able to build a strong foundation with the skill. To culminate the unit, the students used M&M's to practice their learning. They had to determine what fraction of their bag was each color. Then the students had to solve fraction questions before they could enjoy their M&M's.
- Second graders at Willowville Elementary have been learning to identify the theme of a story.** On St. Patrick's Day, the teachers read the book, *The Luckiest Leprechaun*, by Justine Korman. The students easily identified the theme of that text as a loyal friend is worth more than gold. The students then began searching around the room in hopes of finding a pot of gold and were excited when they did! They had fun eating their gold-covered chocolate coins and talking about the importance of being a good friend.



Back row, left to right: Hunter Calderon, Paul Morgan, Haley Uhl and Amaya Frazier. Front row, left to right: Rachael Wheeler, Ryan Shilling, Maggie Lehman, Jessi Moyers, Lexy Termuhlen and Kennedy Brennan.



Samantha Kapsal and Colby Taylor organize their fraction cards to make comparisons.



Ms. Funk's second grade class at Willowville Elementary found the Pot of Gold!