



CONNECTION

APRIL 7, 2011

“Communication works for those who work at it.”

— John Powell

DISTRICT NEWS

Destination ImagiNation!



◀ 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.

West Clermont
District Art Show
April 16 & 17

Destination
Imagination
Teams rock!



Left to right: Dinosaur is ▶ Brendan Haught, Alexis Fathman, Brayden Holloway, Noah Klingelhafer, Jackson Beatty and Gabi Townes.



◀ Clay Ness, Mahala Smith, Adam Rakestraw and Sydney Williams.

DISTRICT NEWS

- **Thirteen teams of students from West Clermont Schools recently represented the district in the Destination ImagiNation regional tournament.** Destination ImagiNation (DI) is an extraordinary small team-based program that invites student teams from all over the world to solve mind-bending challenges. DI is designed to teach three essential skills: creativity, teamwork and problem solving. DI teams are tested to think on their feet, work as a team and devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of the Challenges. DI participants learn to unleash their imaginations and embrace unique approaches to problem solving.

This season, 10 teams from Merwin Elementary, two from Amelia Middle School and one from Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary competed at the regional tournament in Milford. In all, West Clermont produced three first place teams, one second and two third place teams. There are three rising star teams from the first and second grade who participate in the non-competitive category. The three first-place teams from Merwin and Amelia Middle are: Crazy Friends Incorporated, The Destinators, and The Nerdy Ninjas. They will be traveling to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, to compete against the best teams in the state at the State DI Tournament in April. One of the middle school teams, The Destinators, has been invited the past two years to represent Ohio at the international tournament in Tennessee.

"DI is an extraordinary program that changes the way students think and has proven to grow kids' self confidence, develop problem solving skills, and foster creativity," said **Paula Rakestraw**, West Clermont DI leader and former middle school teacher. "The maximum of seven team members provides kids invaluable experience working in a small group where every voice is heard."



West Clermont's Transition Breakfast.

- **Elizabeth Moran of the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Tami Fultz from the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation share information** about adult services with parents of students with disabilities at West Clermont's Transition Breakfast held on March 31. The West Clermont special education department hopes to continue to collaborate with CCDD and BVR to provide this opportunity to parents annually.



Peter Jones with Ellen Stephens, director of the Northern Kentucky Youth Sinfonia.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **Peter Jones, a junior at Amelia High School, recently participated in the Festival of Gold –** The National Invitational Band & Orchestra Festival in Chicago, IL, with the Northern Kentucky Youth Sinfonia. Sinfonia was ranked second in the Orchestra division, scoring 97 out of 100 points. Mr. Jones, who plays the viola in Sinfonia and in the Amelia High School Orchestra, was selected to play in the Festival's Honors Orchestra. The competition and Honors Concert was held in Chicago's Orchestra Hall.
- **Corey Goedde, a 6'2" senior from Glen Este High School has earned a spot on the "Academic All State" Basketball team** given by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association. Corey averaged 11 points, five rebounds, six assists and two steals per game this year.



Corey Goedde

- **The Amelia High School class of 1961 is celebrating their 50th class reunion.** It will be held at the Holiday Inn Eastgate on May 21. Time is 3 p.m. for socializing, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person. Please send reservations to Phyllis Vandergriff, 944 North Apple Gate, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245. For more information call Sue Lotz at 513.474.4988.
- **The Amelia High School chapter of the Business Professionals of America will be hosting a pancake breakfast and Easter egg hunt on April 16.** The cost is \$5 a person or \$20 per family for all the pancakes you can eat. The Easter egg hunt is for age eight and younger. There will also be a silent auction. The breakfast begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. The egg hunt will begin at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **At Amelia Middle School, Mrs. Maynard's sixth grade math class culminated their Geometry Unit with a Geometric Farm Project.** The students designed a farm that included animals and buildings made of specific geometric shapes. They created some very interesting projects.
- **Students in Mrs. Ford's seventh grade Gifted and Talented Enrichment class at Amelia Middle School created paper roller coasters** to analyze principles of motion. In groups of 4-5, students had to record and analyze acceleration data collected on amusement park rides integrating math, physics and technology. The seventh graders were required to sketch and explain graphs of distance vs. time, velocity vs. time, and acceleration vs. time; describe the position of a person on a ride and the acceleration experienced by the rider at a given point on a graph of acceleration vs. time; relate acceleration to gravitational forces; and to use mathematical models for their recording data. During the final class session, students tested roller coasters using a marble and gave a presentation about their coaster. Students enjoyed cotton candy, funnel cakes, and other amusement park fare during the presentations. Mrs. Ford awarded the best scenery, best theme, most creative design element, most complex design and the fastest coaster.
- **Congratulations to Amelia Middle School students, Jose Fehring, Monica Cusick, Katie Brown, and Abbey O'Rourke, members of the Young Inventors Club.** They have been selected as semi-finalists in the Students Innovate For A Better America. The students designed a bike with LED lights and many other features that would make bike riding at night much safer. Good luck in the finals!



Amelia students Kevin Hoffard, Max Buop, and Jevin Curtis holding geometric farm projects.



Seventh graders Josie Fehring, Eva Sofge, Austin Latham and Eva Rivera helped create the paper roller coasters.



Amelia seventh grade students (from left): Abbey O'Rourke, Katie Brown, Jose Fehring, and Monica Cusick.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- **On March 24, Amelia Elementary Pre-K through 2nd grade students were treated to a fun night of popcorn, drinks, free books and the Madcap puppets, courtesy of Title 1 Literacy Night.** This event was planned by Stacey Fuller and Jennifer Burgess, Title I reading specialists. This yearly event always draws a big crowd and this year was no exception. More than 200 children and their families packed the cafeteria along with many staff members who shared ideas to improve literacy at home. Funding for this activity is made possible by Title I federal funds set aside for parent involvement. This year, popcorn was donated by Pierce Point Movie Theater as well as monetary donations from Amelia Walmart as well as the Amelia Station Kroger. Many thanks go out to all those who helped make this night a success!
- **The Cincinnati Zoo visited Amelia Elementary again on March 25.** Thanks to the organization of **Mr. Stevens**, a grandfather of one the students, the Frisch's Outreach Program brought two animals to share with the classes. To start, the students were given pictures of the five classes of vertebrates and were asked to sort them according to their class. Then the zookeeper brought out an African Gray Hornbill named Mozart for the students to observe. Finally, an American Alligator named Hurricane made an appearance. It was a great culminating activity since the students just finished studying about vertebrate animals in science.
- **Brantner students in Mr. Spangler's Gifted and Talented Resource Room have been creating models for the Cincinnati Architecture By Children competition.** The students have been meeting after school for the past few months to create their contest entries for this year's theme, Sacred Spaces. **Tanny McGregor**, Curriculum Supervisor for West Clermont Schools, volunteered to be their fictional client. The students interviewed Mrs. McGregor to determine what sort of structure would fit her needs in designing a sacred space. After a lot of collaboration the students are putting the final touches on architectural models. These include a building dedicated to reading and writing, a structure designed for the display and creation of art, and a sculpture park with formations symbolizing ideas important to Mrs. McGregor. The models will be on display for a week at the downtown branch of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County beginning April 9.
- **Brantner Elementary held its annual Family Literacy Night on March 28.** Families were treated to pizza and drinks and all children had an opportunity to pick a free book and get a free



Stacey Fuller and Jennifer Burgess, organizers of Literacy Night.



Zookeeper Mike and Hurricane.



Fourth graders Eli Davis, Collin Jung and Jacob Holton design a sacred space for display at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County in downtown Cincinnati.



Brantner Elementary Annual Family Literacy Night.

raffle ticket. The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati (ArtReach Touring Productions) presented "The Rockin' Adventures of Peter Rabbit", which was very entertaining for everyone. Following the play, the raffle continued, awarding the lucky tickets with various prizes totaling more than \$1,200. Donors included Cincinnati Reds, Kings Island, Jump Zone, Eastgate Adventures, Recreations Outlet and many more. A complete list of donors can be found on the web page below. During the entire evening, families also had the opportunity to visit the Book Fair and purchase their favorite book choices. They were also encouraged to visit the web site www.brantnerliteracy.blogspot.com to find ideas for literacy practice at home.

- Visitors to Brantner Elementary School are now greeted with a new sign, thanks to the hard work of the Brantner PTO and the generous donations from Eastgate Meijer, Distinctive Signs and Bard Nurseries.** The new sign, featured in front of the building, was constructed by Distinctive Signs for the elementary school to replace an aging sign previously located at the same site. Meijer District Manager James Wilkins donated \$5,500 for the project. Pete Thomas of Distinctive Signs designed the new structure and also donated \$600 to the school. Bard Nurseries donated landscaping materials and labor to enhance the sign area.
- Kiersten McCoy, Merwin Elementary, wants to be sure we offer our support to the earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan.** She came up with the idea to take up a collection at school and donate the money to the disaster relief fund. Kiersten made a special jar to place in the Merwin office for contributions. Thank you to Kiersten for sharing this thoughtful idea.
- Merwin parents met with Superintendent Dr. Brooks at the school on March 23** to speak about the emergency operating levy that will be on the May 3 ballot. They were interested in learning about the facts and anticipated budget cuts for the 2011-2012 school year. **Alana Cropper**, the West Clermont treasurer and school board member **Denise Smith** were also present to answer questions.
- Fourth grade art students at Merwin Elementary are making pottery Wall Pocket Vases in the style of Greek Urns.** They are pinching together slabs of clay and stuffing them with paper to widen them into decorative sconces. The vases are detailed with various patterns and designs students create with clay stamps, and finished in colorful glazes. The clay is then



Brantner students, staff, PTO president Patti Hornstra, Co-Vice President Teresa Bard, and Treasurer Jill Jones and West Clermont administrators were on hand to officially dedicate the sign and accept the donation from James Wilkins, Meijer district manager.



Merwin principal Jackie Hospelhorn and Kiersten McCoy.



West Clermont Superintendent Gary Brooks shares information with Merwin parents.



Jacob Lucas works on his Greek Wall Pocket with the assistance of art teacher, Lynette Garrett.

fired and the pottery can be hung to display flowers or vines. Students are guided through the creative process by their art teacher, Lynette Garrett.

- Mrs. Austin was surprised by Mr. Felix Leshey and employees from our local Sam's Club last week in the café.** Mr. Leshey and his crew rolled in two large shopping carts full of badly needed school supplies for our classrooms: facial tissues, paper towels, Mr. Clean Magic erasers, Clorox disinfectant wipes, Ziplock baggies, and hand sanitizer. Colorful napkins with a springtime color and tulip pattern were also donated to us to use for Summerside's 60th Birthday Bash. These products were paid for by the employees of Sam's Club #6528 located on Clepper Lane near the local Wal-Mart. Summerside is grateful for this generous donation and show of support for the students, teachers and families. Thank you Sam's Club!
- Summerside Elementary art teacher, Mrs. Peloe, showcased art work from students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade at the Third Annual Art Show!** The art show was well attended by Summerside families again this year. Thank you to the present and past SE PTO members who supported and worked on this delightful after-school event. Many children enjoyed appetizers and showing off their framed art. Be sure to check out our student's art pieces at the district-wide art show to be held at WT Elementary on April 16-17.
- Welcome and thank you, JoAnne Fabrics Eastgate!** Teachers and staff at Summerside were excited when recently opened JoAnne Fabrics Eastgate store manager Kay Swafford visited the school and presented Summerside's PTO with a check for \$2,000! Summerside parent and JoAnne's employee Kevin Reily entered the school into the "Inspired to Help" contest. Kevin's daughter **Sydney Reilly** is a second grade student in Mrs. Gebauer's class. This entire donation will be used for student needs such as upcoming assemblies, incentives and rewards, school store, and supplies for teachers to use with students in the classroom. Strong community businesses lead to strong business and family connections, which in turn create strong schools and community relationships like this one.
- Gifted and Talented students in Mr. Spangler and Mrs. Jones classes began an investigation of ratio with the theme of a Funhouse in mind.** They are working cooperatively to find certain body measurements in order to compare their body ratios to those of "Stretch the Clown." Students will write and represent relationships using ratios, exploring equivalent ratios as well.



Felix Leshey, manager from Sam's Club along with team member and Summerside principal, Linda Austin.



First grader Ryan Sharkey and his parents enjoy the Art Fair.



Willowville Elementary students Peyton Mullins and Olivia Fahey help each other measure with Joel Williams' assistance.