

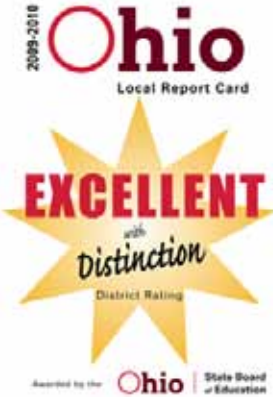


CONNECTION

MAY 5, 2011

"An age is called Dark, not because the light fails to shine, but because people refuse to see it."

— James A. Michener



DISTRICT NEWS

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. The West Clermont Board and Administration want to thank our outstanding teachers for their dedication to each of our students every day. You are appreciated!

Amelia High School Drama Department Proudly Presents: ALL SHOOK UP! May 6 and 7 at Amelia High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children/students. Please email battelle_a@westcler.org to reserve your tickets.

AHS holds Third Annual Athletic Signing

GEHS sponsors safe driving exercise

Amelia High School Presents

The Musical

ALL SHOOK UP

INSPIRED BY AND FEATURING THE SONGS OF ELVIS PRESLEY®
BOOK BY JOE DIPIETRO

Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th
Show time: 7:00pm
Amelia High School Performing Arts Center
Admission: Adults \$10, Students \$7

All Shook Up is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 1359 Broadway, Suite 914, New York, NY 10018. (866) 378-9758 www.theatricalrights.com
Originally Produced on Broadway by Jonathan Pollard, Bernie Kukoff, Clear Channel Entertainment, Harbor Entertainment, Miramax Films, Bob & Harvey Weinstein, Stanley Buchthal, Eric Falkenstein, Nina Eisman/Nancy Nagel Gibbs, Jean Cheever, Margaret Cotter, in association with Barney Rosenzweig, Meri Kressner, FGRW Investments, Karen Jason, Paul Casullo Conard. Originally produced for Goodspeed Musicals, Michael P. Price, Executive Producer, Sue Frost, Associate Producer.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **Amelia High School recently recognized their top 25 academic students with a college signing ceremony.** On May 2, friends and family joined the senior class in watching Amelia's top students sign letters of intent to attend the college of their choice. A reception was then held for the students and their families.



Front L-R: Claire Schweinhart, Alexandria Smith, Alyssa Couch, Victoria Andres, Paige Spencer, Shivangi Patel, Allyson Chamberlain, Christina Ahting, Brianne Cass, Erin Hancock, Danielle Lowery, Cassandra Amato and Daisy Chen. Back L-R: Jurong Wu, Matthew Ortalano, Gregory Beach, John Hart, Matthew Bradley, Taylor Olmstead, Tyler Holtzclaw, William Wendel and Alan Nguyen. Not pictured: Tim Wolf and Natalia Yaroshevich.

- **A thank you note for Amelia teachers:**

When my son, Luke Smith, 9th grade, at Amelia High School, told his teachers that he wanted to walk the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon, we never dreamed they would all dive in to help him reach his goal. Throughout the month of April, all of his teachers at Amelia High School helped him walk and track the needed 25 miles in his "Hog Log." With Luke's many medical issues, this was not an easy task for him. On Saturday, April 30, two of the paraprofessionals in the Autism Unit at Amelia High School, Mrs. Vicki Unterreiner and Mrs. Karen Schlachta, joined Luke and his family to walk the final mile at the Cincinnati Flying Pig. They walked next to him cheering him through to the finish line where he received his Flying Pig Medal. Luke had wanted to walk the marathon so he could help spread Autism Awareness and raise money for the Families with ASD's Autism Center. Luke raised over \$2,000! We are so proud of Luke and are so touched by the support and encouragement the teachers at Amelia High School have given our son. Amelia High School teachers, we appreciate you!



Mrs. Vicki Unterreiner and Mrs. Karen Schlachta joined Luke and his family to walk the final mile at the Cincinnati Flying Pig.

— Sincerely, Julia and Greg Smith

- **Paige Spencer and Abbie Pizzo, seniors at Amelia High School, have been volunteering in the multiple disabilities unit at their school and have used that experience as an inspiration to help their fellow students.** Once the pair got into the volunteering spirit, they found it hard not to go a little further each day with their giving. Making the lives of the special needs students a priority, Spencer and Pizzo have been raising funds, selling everything from magnets to Tupperware, to get equipment and supplies for the multiple disabilities students. Their efforts, which have raised over \$700 so far, have attracted the attention of other students, and even the local media. The students have been featured in the newspaper and on television.

- **Amelia High School had its 3rd Annual Athletic Signing.** The following 12 students signed to play college athletics: **Alaina Burgess** – Union College Volleyball, **Ali Hock-James** – Wittenberg College Volleyball, **Paige Spencer** – Tennessee Tech Girls Soccer, **Justin Andler** – Morehead State Football, **Zach Hultz** – Morehead State – Track, **Tanner Owens** – Thomas More



Amelia High School athletic signing.

College – Football, **Brandon Cafferky** – Thomas More College – Football, **Zack Muncie** – Thomas More College – Football, **Erin Hancock** – Hanover College – Girls Soccer, **Brianna Beasley** – Blue Mountain College – Girls Basketball, **Cody Case** – Shawnee State – Baseball, **Jon McDonald** – Muskingum – Football (not pictured).

- **Glen Este sponsored a safe driving mock emergency training exercise during the school day on April 29.** The event, produced by Glen Este High School’s Advanced Personal & Community Health Class, supported the idea that driving while distracted is dangerous. “By putting together this mock emergency, we hoped to raise awareness throughout the community starting with teenagers,” said Jasmine Yarbrough, event publicity manager. “The subject of driving while distracted includes anything from changing the song on your iPod, talking on the phone, texting, having too many people with you and/or even driving while emotional. We hope we informed the community on the effects and helped push everyone to have safer driving habits.”

Participating in the training event were the following emergency response teams: Union Township Fire and Police Departments, Clermont County Coroner and University Hospital Air Care. Sponsors for the event were Farmers Insurance (providing funding for portable bleacher seating so all Juniors and Seniors could safely attend and observe the event), Gray’s Towing (providing 2 vehicles, towing and placement services), and Everything Bagels, Subway, Kroger and Sams (providing brunch to the Emergency Responders, Press, and Student Participants).

Following the event, many students took advantage of the opportunity to receive Safe Driver Program Information from representatives of Farmers Insurance and to sign pledges for MADD (not driving while impaired), Remember Alex Brown (no texting and driving and wearing seat belts) and Oprah’s No Phone Zone (no texting/hands-free only or no phoning at all while driving).

“It has been an honor to work with the students, administration, area businesses and community response teams in the creation and delivery of this training event,” commented instructor Joan Stear. “It is always fulfilling to see students working side by side with Lt. Vicki Conneighton of the Union Township Fire Department and her team of community emergency responders to deliver a strong health and safety message. Now it is up to the individual to act out that message and keep our community safe!”

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **On March 11, the Amelia Middle School students had an opportunity to sign a contract vowing not to bully or accept the bullying of other students.** Developed by a seventh grade student, **Bethanie Horn**, the contract was presented to all students during a weekly classroom meeting.



Garrett Fenchel, a junior at GEHS, and Desi Belew, a senior, brought the demonstration home to the students.



Kim Orlemann, AMS counselor, and Kristie Strittmatter, school psychologist, help students put their signature on the giant sized canvas.

Ms. Jen Mirlesina, sixth grade teacher, and her class provided handmade spirit bracelets for students who signed the contract and signed the Promise Banner which hangs in the AMS cafeteria. The contract emphasized Baron Pride and stressed "SEE IT, SAY IT, STOP IT." We take bullying seriously! Barons Don't Bully!

- **Glen Este Middle School held its annual Spring Book Fair** ... the support received from students, staff, PTO members and families was fantastic! The sales profit will allow GEMS to purchase another SmartBoard for the middle school. The students picked out some really great reads for the upcoming weeks. Thanks again for the school and community support received for this event. Special thanks to Tamra Hagan and Tracy Singleton for their help and for all the volunteers who worked the fair. The parents and staff make a difference everyday!

ELEMENTARY NEWS

- **Amelia Elementary hosted a Family Science night on April 19.** Families were invited to explore tornados, make gluep (Silly Putty made with glue), discover what makes Fortune Telling fish work and stop by 6 other science stations. Over 100 adults and students attended. The evening was a huge success!
- **From "Endless Flavor Gum" to a "Robot that can make you dinner," Mrs. Burnheimer's third grade social studies classes** became inventors for their Economics Unit. The students thought of an invention, listed materials, steps needed for production, and different medias where they would want to sell their inventions. The final project was to inform their fellow classmates of the project through a presentation.
- **Amelia Elementary kindergarten teacher Julia Smith was recently honored with the 2011 Outstanding Service Award** presented by the Katie Haumesser Foundation acknowledging her vision and devotion to serving families affected by autism. Julia is the founder of Families with Autism Spectrum Disorders, proudly supporting families living with autism. Congratulations, Mrs. Smith! Your Amelia Elementary family is very proud of you!
- **The kindergarten students at Brantner Elementary attended a play at the Aronoff Center.** They saw Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse. A majority of the cost of the field trip was paid for by a grant from the Cincinnati Arts Association.



AE Family Science Night.



David Hawthorne presented his waterseat invention through this television commercial.



Amelia Elementary teacher Julie Smith receives 2011 Outstanding Service Award acknowledging her vision and devotion to serving families affected by autism.



Kindergarten students Layla Lammert and Madison Unthank enjoy the play.

- **The Clough Pike Elementary Walking Club was well represented at the Flying Pig Kids Marathon 26 Mile race.** 200 students and parents took part in this year's event. The club stood out in their red tie-dye t-shirts designed by Amelia High School senior, **Ben Heideman**.
- **The Ohio Achievement Assessments were given to the third, fourth and fifth graders at Holly Hill Elementary this past week.** As a reward, the students were treated to an assembly to celebrate their hard work and efforts to do their best on the test. Mr. Mike from Scream and Shout kept the students screaming and shouting to his music and soap machine. He also had a toilet paper blower that he shot over the kids' heads. The theme of the program reminded the students of important character traits such as citizenship, trustworthiness, reliability, responsibility and caring. It was a great way to encourage the students to work hard.
- **Cub Scouts from Merwin's Pack 676 attended the 19th Annual East Fork Lake River Sweep on April 30.** Each boy and parent collected bags of trash and recyclables along the roadway and in the park. Other volunteers walked the stream banks to collect garbage along the East Fork River from Williamsburg to Milford. Crews also cleaned the shoreline at East Fork Lake and Stonelick Lake.

- **Merwin student Lauren Wyatt donated ten inches of her beautiful hair to Locks of Love.** Locks of Love is a nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. Lauren donated her hair in memory of her Aunt Enid who battled breast cancer. Merwin is very proud of eight year old Lauren, who made a very mature and thoughtful decision.



- **Summerside Elementary celebrates Birthday Bash!** Rain or shine Summerside Eagles love to celebrate! On May 2, Summerside threw a fun-filled party for all of the students, their families and our community members from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The teachers and staff worked hard to provide birthday cake, ice cream, hot dogs, and balloons in addition to live student performances and games. There was a great turn-out and Spirit Sam made a guest appearance!



Students pictured are: Chace Miller, Ethan Spanja, Thomas McDermott, Grady Brennecke, Josh Bunton, Brady Viney and Emma Losey.



Holly Hill students celebrate their hard work and efforts to do their best on the test.



Matt Fuller, Michelle Harper, Matthew Harper, Michael Harper and Sam Fuller at the River Sweep.



Alexis McCarter and Emma Phipps enjoy the Birthday Bash.

- **Summerside has gone international!** Bach to Beatles is a saxophone assembly brought to the school by the PTO. The Canadian duo used their instruments to teach the children about musical history from the 1600's to modern day. They learned about composers, inventors, and had a chance to interact with the performers on our stage.



Bach to Beatles performs for Summerside students.

- **On April 29, Summerside Elementary PTO hosted the Mother-Son Sports of All Sorts Dance in the gym.** The dance was a lot of fun for everyone including our mascot Spirit-Sam who "boogied down" to the DJ's musical jams.



- **Friends of the Groom, a theatrical group, presented "Once Upon a Character" to the Summerside Elementary students and staff.** The actor's performance centered on character education and used the universal saying "Do unto others as you would have done to you." Thank you, Summerside PTO!



Summerside students Trinity Jeffers and Grace Holscher assist in the character education presentation.



- **On March 31, the W-T Elementary fifth graders presented a musical adaptation of the Mark Twain classic, Tom Sawyer.** Students practiced after school two days each week learning their parts and practicing their songs. Students participated by acting, singing, working backstage, moving sets, lighting and operating sound. It was

Withamsville-Tobasco students present the musical adaptation of the Mark Twain classic, Tom Sawyer.

a great effort with a lot of parental support. "The show sparked an interest in musical theater for many of our students," said W-T musical director, Laura White. "We are hoping that there will be many more shows to come." Several staff members worked together to produce the show: They include **Tamara Nicoloff, MaryAnn Shreve, Chrissy Zboril, Laura White and Sharon Watt.**

- **Willowville's Annual Blue Jeans Concert featured the entire third grade class in an informal, relaxed performance of old and new songs.** From "Old Joe Clark" to "What Do You Do with a Water Waster," they ended the program with a rousing performance of "Do Wah Diddy," "Rockin' Robin," and "Rock Around the Clock."
- **Miss Burnett's kindergarten class at Willowville Elementary has been learning about the zoo.** The whole class went on an animal safari around the school building. The children used graphs to record all of the animals they found. Their results showed that there were 10 cheetahs, which made the cheetahs the most found animal on the safari!
- **Third graders at Willowville Elementary recently finished an immigration unit in social studies.** Students learned about the hardships immigrants faced on their journey to America and what the conditions were like being processed through Ellis Island. All students presented projects about their family's ancestors, including the countries and years their relatives arrived in the United States. They also designed a clothespin to represent their heritage. Some even traced ancestors back to Ellis Island and shared old black-and-white photographs of great, great grandparents! Most were surprised to learn how similar our histories can be.



Third grade students at Willowville Elementary under the direction of Dr. Kloth, sang fun, upbeat songs during the annual Blue Jeans Concert.



Ms. Burnett's kindergarten class at Willowville Elementary found one of the animals on their safari hunt.



Willowville Elementary third grade students display their projects about their family's ancestors.