

News Story

Title: Press Releases - April 3, 2009
Release Date: 04/03/2009
Information Contact: Lynne Maslowski
Author:
News Category: Board News

News Content:

Annehurst Fifth Grade Students Host Energy Fair

Annehurst Elementary School fifth grade students hosted Energy Fairs for fellow students and their families on March 24 and March 27. The event focused on teaching and learning about sources and forms of energy, energy conservation, and energy awareness. Participants walked from station to station to learn about different aspects of energy, all which were aligned with Science Ohio Content Standards. Teacher Marsha Siefker organized the event.

###

“Voices of Hawthorne” Choir Captivates Audience at Schottenstein Center

The “Voices of Hawthorne” student choir from Hawthorne Elementary School sang the National Anthem for nearly 13,000 captivated spectators at the Jerome Schottenstein Center on the campus of The Ohio State University on March 27. The students received thunderous applause prior to the completion of their song from the very enthusiastic and appreciative audience, who were present to witness the Boys State Basketball Tournament. Music teacher Kimberly Spencer directed the choral group. If you would like to see this performance or get more information about this amazing group of vocalists, please visit www.voicesofhawthorne.com.

###

Walnut Springs 5K Walk/Run will Benefit Heinzerling Foundation

Walnut Springs Middle School will host its second annual 5K Walk/Run to benefit the Heinzerling Foundation. This residential facility serves 208 non-ambulatory individuals with severe or profound mental retardation and multiple disabilities, both youth and adult.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 9, at 9:00 a.m. The race will start and finish at Walnut Springs, 888 E. Walnut St. Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female finishers and to the top male and female youth finishers age 15 or under. The first 100 registered participants will receive a commemorative tee-shirt. Race information and registration can be accessed by visiting <http://premieraces.com/2009Races/09WalnutSprings.html> .

Through student involvement in planning, implementing, and participating in this event, Walnut Springs students will have an opportunity to give back to the local community. The race fosters community and family involvement and promotes health and fitness for Westerville residents.

For further information, please contact Walnut Springs Middle School at 797-6700.

###

North’s Ellie Hamrick Recognized for Writing

Westerville North High School senior Ellie Hamrick was named one of six state finalists in the annual Letters about Literature contest for students in grades 9-12.

More than 2,300 Ohio students entered the contest by writing personal letters to an author, living or dead, explaining

how the author's work changed the student's ways of thinking about the world or themselves.

Ellie wrote to Samantha Powell, author of *A Problem from Hell, America in the Age of Genocide*. Ellie's entry was described by judges as "well-written and insightful."

The Ohio Center for the Book, in conjunction with the Library of Congress, will honor Ellie at a luncheon held May 9 at the Ohioana Book Festival in Columbus, OH.

###

Westerville Central Prom Dress Swap and Shop is Cancelled

The Westerville Central High School Prom Dress Swap and Shop, originally scheduled for April 4, has been cancelled. The 30 dresses that were donated for the event will be given to the Fairy Godmothers organization.

###

Students at Hanby are Hip Hopping during Gym Class

Students at Hanby Arts Magnet School have been learning about Hip Hop dancing through the study and understanding of patterns, rhythms and repetition. Third graders enjoyed the incorporation of Hip Hop in their gym classes, thanks to three mini sessions taught by Brook Stoughton, owner and operator of July Dollenmayer Studio of Dance in Gahanna.

###

School Board to Meet

The Westerville City Schools Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2009, in the White House Annex, located at 135 E. Walnut St. The Board will vote to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and negotiations. No action will be taken.

A Regular Meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. at The Transportation Complex, located at 125 E. Walnut St. Parking is available at Whittier Elementary School on the north side of Walnut Street, opposite the Transportation Complex.

###

Families Enjoy Robert Frost Fun Fair at the Adventure Education Center

The Robert Frost Elementary School PTA hosted its annual Frost Fun Fair the evening of Friday, March 27. The event was held at the Adventure Education Center in Worthington. Parent and teacher volunteers guided students and families through large inflatable slides and obstacle courses, carnival games, cake walks, face painting, wall climbing, and much more. Parent volunteers also put together silent auction baskets. Money raised from the Fun Fair will be used by the PTA to benefit students.

###

Magnet School Lottery Drawing will take place on April 8

The Westerville Magnet School Program will be holding a lottery draw at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at the Westerville Community Center, located at 350 N. Cleveland Ave. Drawings for all three magnet school programs: Arts

Program, Mathematics and Science Program and the World Languages and Cultures Program will take place at this lottery. All applicants will be notified by mail of the lottery results. The lottery draw is open to the public.

###

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray Reads to Students at Annehurst

In observance of Read Across America, state and education officials visited Annehurst Elementary School on March 26 to share a book and answer questions. Donning Dr. Seuss hats, Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray read *Duck for President* while Ohio Education Association (OEA) secretary/treasurer Jim Timlin displayed illustrations for the third grade audience. OEA president Pat Frost-Brooks led the students in reciting the "Reader's Pledge." Each pupil was given a Reading Game booklet and a pencil.

###

Community Mentoring Partnership Benefits Cherrington Students

The Cherrington community and Progressive Medical Insurance have partnered together with Big Brothers Big Sisters for the past eight years to provide mentors for students in first through fifth grade. More than 50 students this year meet once a week with their mentors to work on a variety of academic activities during recess. The program has become a rewarding experience for students and mentors alike.

###

Robert Frost Student Council Aids My Very Own Blanket Organization

On Tuesday evening, March 31, Robert Frost Student Council members teamed up with the organization My Very Own Blanket to provide a common time when students, staff, and community members could come together to help complete blankets that will be given to children in Foster Care throughout surrounding communities. Volunteers tied knots to complete blanket fringe and colored fabric pieces that will be made into quilts.

###

High School Talent on Display at Otterbein Art Show

The Westerville High Schools District Art Show, sponsored by Westerville City Schools and the Arts Council of Westerville, will run through April 7 at Battelle Hall on the campus of Otterbein College. Artwork created by students from Westerville Central, Westerville North, and Westerville South is on display. A reception held March 28 kicked off the event.

###

American Legion Post 171 Announces Delegates to Buckeye Boys and Girls State

Eight boys and 12 girls will be sponsored by Westerville's American Legion Post 171 to attend Buckeye Boys and Buckeye Girl's State. The 2009 delegates from Westerville Central High School are Christopher Bawer, Trevor Johns, Lot Kwarteng, Keaton Morris, Justin Yerina, Julie Guseman, Catherine Hammerschmidt, Nana Owusu-Kwarteng, Lindsey Peters, Emily Radigan, and Kaitlyn Rider. Representatives from Westerville North High School are Adam Rhodes, Matt Schaublin, Amy Buck, Kirsten Grady, and Andrea Haugtvedt. Westerville South delegates are Matthew Duffey, Catherine Cadieux, Sarah Escape, and Anna Schiffbauer. Buckeye Boys State will take place at Bowling Green State University from June 13-21. Girls State will be held at Ashland University from June 14-20.

Buckeye Boys and Girls State are two of many youth programs conducted and sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. This program is for students who have completed their junior year in high school. During the summer months, delegates "learn by doing," participating in mock government at the city, county, and state levels. Students who have shown leadership qualities and expressed an interest in learning more about how government works are nominated by the teaching staff of their respective high schools. Westerville candidates then go through a rigorous interview with members of the Legion and Auxiliary to complete the selection process.

Westerville's Post 171 annually sponsors more delegates to Buckeye Boys and Girls State than any other post in Ohio.

###

Sixth Grade Science Students Learn About Energy from their Peers

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade student leaders at Heritage Middle School hosted an Energy Fair on March 27 for their peers in sixth grade science classes. Attendees at the "kids teaching kids" event got to participate in hands-on activities at a variety of energy stations set up in the school's Media Center. Teachers Debbie Pellington, Nyesha Clayton, Lavanya Watkins and Jason Tucker helped organize the activity.

###

Cats with Class Honored at Westerville South High School

Westerville South High School and the Westerville South Parent-Teacher organization sponsored a Cats with Class recognition program on Wednesday morning, April 1, to honor students who have demonstrated acts of kindness, good school citizenship, or service which help make the school a wonderful place for learning and teaching. They were nominated by staff members. Keynote speaker at the breakfast gathering was Jermaine Guice, a professional basketball player who graduated from South in 1990. He discussed the importance of good character, sharing some meaningful personal experiences that impacted his life.

The following students were recognized: Chantale Anu, Erika Beeson, Beverly Boamah, Mitchell Borders, Rachel Calvert, Alesha Collins, Hope Davenport, Jonathan Dixon, Troy Elizondo, Kristin Good, Alexandra Gross, Christopher Hemmelgarn, Kevin Hunt, Zachary Ingram, James Jeffers, Shaykila Johnson, Ashlee Kemper, Annaleise Kitzler, Amy Leffel, Ling Li, Katie Messer, Allison Michaels, Shane Morais, Olumide Olanrewaju, Kimiya Pettey, Alexander Potts, Alexandria Roberts, Rachel Ross, Jacob Sands, Matthew Schultz, Victoria Sumner, Mariah Swank, Dionne Threweatt-Vassar, Kevin Williams and Richard Wood.

###

Bette Marschall Grant Applications Sought

The Bette Marschall Education Fund of the Columbus Foundation will be accepting, through April 29, 2009, applications for monetary grants for worthy 2009-2010 school year projects not otherwise supported within the school budget. The grants are available to teachers, students, administrators, and non-teaching staff within the Westerville City School District. It is expected that approximately \$2,400 will be available for this application period. Applicants may request awards of up to \$500, except those for subsidizing tuition, which will be limited to \$250. A selection committee will meet early in May to decide on the awarding of grants.

To obtain the Fund Description and an Application for Funding, please visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~marsdavi> . Questions may be submitted by e-mail to cwmarschall@sbcglobal.net or by phone to JoAnn Swope at 614/882-7643.

###

Whole Grains Family Breakfast Celebration Kicks Off Pointview's Wellness Week

Dozens of children and adults converged on Pointview Elementary School on Tuesday morning, March 31, where they enjoyed healthy servings of food and information to nourish the body and mind. The Whole Grains Family Breakfast Celebration kicked off a number of Wellness Week activities at the school. Events are being supported by the Pointview Wellness Committee and a grant from Ohio Action for Healthy Kids.

On April 2 the public was invited to hear Amy Sternstein, M.D., Ounce of Prevention Coordinator from the Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She spoke about simple ways families can eat better and move more. Wednesday, April 8 is Family Game Night and the PTA Book Fair.

###

Westerville Schools Setting the Pace for Energy Savings

The Westerville City School District is leading the way in setting an example for others while achieving savings with energy-efficient behavior; and now those good habits are earning the district national recognition.

The district has achieved 29 percent cost avoidance totaling \$2,734,148 in the 24 months since forming a strategic alliance with Energy Education, a national energy conservation company which will present its Energy Pacesetter Award during the board meeting April 6. The Energy Pacesetter Award is for those stellar organizations that are "setting the pace" in energy savings for others. It is designated only for programs achieving above-average savings, recognizing the support and cooperation of administration, faculty and staff district-wide.

"Reaching this level of savings at this stage of the program is a significant achievement. Westerville City Schools has done an excellent job of implementing Energy Education's people-oriented approach to energy conservation and maintaining productive efforts at all levels of the organization. The superintendent and board of education, along with other administration, faculty and staff members are to be commended for clearly fulfilling their commitment to being good stewards of the taxpayers' money and the environment," said Dr. William S. Spears, CEO and founder of Energy Education.

"I am extremely pleased to present Westerville City Schools with our Energy Pacesetter Award. The district joins a very committed, elite group of organizations across the country working hard to conserve energy so the dollars saved can be redirected to other needs," said Dr. Spears.

As a key part of the program, energy education manager Laura Ehninger tracks energy consumption – including electricity, water, sewer, and natural gas – using energy-accounting software. She compares current energy use to a baseline period and calculates the amount of energy that would have been used had conservation and management practices not been implemented. By tracking consumption and analyzing energy use, she can quickly identify and correct areas that need immediate attention. Another key process in reducing energy within the district is to program the heating and air conditioning to run only during the school day or for scheduled events.

Ehninger said, in response to notification of receipt of the Energy Pacesetter Award, "The entire school district should share in this award since it takes everyone helping in concert to have a successful energy conservation program. There are many facets to this program; it's not only about turning off lights and computers – although it is important for us to be vigilant about that, too."

###

Art Auction Brings in Approximately \$13,000 for Hanby Arts Magnet School

Approximately \$13,000 was raised at the Hanby Arts Magnet School auction held on Sunday, March 29, where 9,037 items were up for sale. Crowds packed the school for the event, which featured live and silent auctions, a Kids Only auction, raffles, music performances, children's activities and a food court. Richard Helwig, auctioneer/realtor for Remax Impact in Westerville, presided over the event. Proceeds will support curriculum enhancements, supplies and field trips;

new equipment for the school; Hanby community events; and much more.

###

Westerville Students Excel at Chemistry Olympiad Competition

Seventy-seven students from 14 Central Ohio high schools competed in the American Chemical Society sponsored Chemistry Olympiad competition held at Thomas Worthington High School on March 21. Several Westerville students walked away with honors, some of whom will move on to the next level.

Westerville Central junior Phong Bui and senior Caitlin Mackey earned top honors, placing in the top 11. They are both invited to compete in a three-part National Chemistry Exam on April 23 and April 25. The top 20 from this exam will attend the National Olympiad Study Camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs from June 7-21. Minnie Herrick is the Chemistry teacher at Central.

Westerville South High School had three winners. In the first year category, Janet Adegboye and Megan Carpenter swept first and second place, winning monetary prizes. In the second year category, Sarah Middleton placed in the top 11 students in Central Ohio and has qualified to compete at the next level. Beth Eddy teaches Chemistry at South.

###

Middle School Musicians and their Parents Invited to Pick n' Play Sessions in May

Incoming sixth grade students who will be attending any Westerville middle school this August and who are interested in enrolling in the band program are invited to bring their parents to a Pick n' Play session which is being offered at Heritage Middle School, 390 N. Spring Rd. Music directors from all four middle schools – Blendon, Genoa, Heritage and Walnut Springs, will be present to answer questions and help students choose a suitable instrument.

Music in the sixth grade is an elective class held every other day for the entire school year. It does not interfere with other middle school activities offered. Students have the option of general or instrumental music. Instrumental choices are band and orchestra. Those wishing to participate in fall classes must select an instrument and enroll this spring.

Pick n' Play sessions will be offered on the following days:

- Monday, May 11 – 4:00 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; and 7:00 p.m. (Anyone wanting to be considered for percussion must attend on this day).
- Wednesday, May 13 – 4:00 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; and 7:00 p.m.

###

Suburban Multicultural College Fair to be held April 22 at the Vineyard

Parents and youth of Columbus suburban school districts are cordially invited to attend the fifth annual Suburban Multicultural College Fair, which will take place from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22 at the Vineyard Community Center, which is located at 6000 Cooper Rd. The free fair will provide a format for exchanging and disseminating information to families with students exploring after high school plans. In addition to traditional information tables, two breakout sessions will be offered twice – Financial Aid at 6:00 and 6:45 p.m.; and College 101, also at 6:00 and 6:45 p.m.

Seven suburban school districts are sponsoring the event – Dublin, Gahanna, Hilliard, New Albany, Reynoldsburg, Westerville and Worthington.

###

Children's Book Illustrators Visit Hanby on March 27

On March 27 the students and staff at Hanby Arts Magnet School enjoyed meeting and working with children's book illustrators Christopher and Jeanette Canyon, residents of German Village in Columbus. Jeanette shared her techniques for working with polymer clay to create beautiful illustrations. Christopher described his techniques and also sang several John Denver songs he has adapted into picture books including *Sunshine on my Shoulders*, *Take Me Home Country Roads* and *Grandma's Feather Bed*.

The couple spent the day at Hanby interacting with the students and staff, autographing books and enjoying a luncheon provided by the PTA board.

###

Arts Alive Scheduled at Westerville Central on April 9

On Thursday, April 9, Westerville Central High School will host its annual Arts Alive Festival from 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. This marks the third year for the all-school, all-student run event, which will feature a wide variety of art activities and performances.

There will be a student art gallery displaying more than 300 pieces of art; a tie dye courtyard; live art being made; a film festival; a black light gallery; a performance stage of choir and band shows; a clay throw-down area where students teach teachers to use the potter's wheel and compete; and a beatnik coffeehouse. There will also be guest artists from Columbus demonstrating their crafts including High Street Tattoo, illustrator Adam Brouillette, potter Eric Rausch, and Ohio State University Urban Art Space representatives. Columbus College of Art & Design officials will also be on hand to judge artwork.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Kiko at 797-6800.

###