



CONNECTION

MARCH 11, 2010

“Self-expression must pass into communication for its fulfillment.” — Pearl Buck



DISTRICT NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- **Don't miss the Amelia High School production of Cinderella on March 12 and 13**, AHS Performing Arts Center at 7:00 p.m. A modern twist on the traditional tale we've all come to love. An unlikely heroine meets her Prince with help from her BFF's: a spider, a toad, a crow and a little magic. For ticket information visit: www.westcler.org/AH/ and follow the link under Special Events.
- **Amelia High School is holding its 6th Annual Boys and Girls Soccer Camp.** The camp will be held June 14-17 from 8-11 a.m. on the Amelia High School Campus. The camp is for boys and girls grades 4-8 and the cost is \$50. For more information, contact Amy Kemmer at kemmer_a@westcler.org or 513-515-3456.
- **The Glen Este High School Concert Band received a Superior rating at this past Saturday's District Band Contest.** The band will now advance to the State Competition on April 30-May 1.
- **Rowing Coach Tony Geara visited Glen Este High School during gym classes to promote rowing.** Clermont Crew is a rowing club for high school and home school students. The boathouse is located on Harsha Lake in East Fork State Park in Clermont County. This non-profit organization aim is to develop the strength and character of students through the discipline and teamwork of rowing. Clermont Crew also provides a path to college and scholarships for dedicated young people. Clermont Crew currently has about 30 rowers and offers recreational, novice and varsity programs. Visit the website for more information – www.clermontcrew.net



Coach Tony Geara demonstrates the use of an indoor rowing machine, an ergometer, to GEHS senior James Fletcher. Ergs are used during cold weather to continue strength and aerobic conditioning.

GEHS Concert
Band receives
superior rating!

AHS presents
Cinderella on
March 12.

- **Glen Este High School students Matt Bradley, Elizabeth Werren, Natalie Wolfer, Shivangi Patel and Natalia Yaroshevich participated in a "Live Surgery Experience" at Christ Hospital.** The surgery was a robotic surgery. Dr. Marcia Bowling, M.D. performed the hysterectomy using the Da Vinci robot. Students were able to ask Dr. Bowling questions during the entire procedure. After the surgery, students were able to ask the surgical team questions about the surgery and about career opportunities.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **At Amelia Middle School, Mrs. Ford's eighth grade Honors English classes are currently reading Daniel Pink's book, A Whole New Mind.** The first chapter discusses the importance of design in our lives. Pink writes, "Good design in our lives is essential – from appliances, cars and furniture to things like 'butterfly' ballots that may have affected a presidential election. Design is critical to every business as products must be ever more user friendly, beautiful, compact, energy efficient, ergonomic and useful. Good design is essential to good products and right brain thinking allows us to understand how people use products in order to make products better. Good design must have significance and utility."

As an extension to the chapter, Mrs. Ford asks her students to generate a list of significances and utilities for their locker and its design. Students then spent a 20-25 minute session on the observation of their locker and recorded "praise phrases" for their locker's significance and utility. **Mrs. Tanny McGregor** worked with half of a class while Mrs. Ford worked with the other half. As a final step, students wrote "Odes to their lockers" incorporating various types of figurative languages and their "praise phrases". For an example of personification, a student wrote, "My science book hid away in a dark corner praying that it would not have to leave the safety of the locker." An example of flashback included, "I think of our first meeting. The locker was so clean and full of promise." Students typed final copies of their odes and posted them on their book study website (NING) called "The Pink Link". To view more "Odes to the Locker" and photos of this activity, visit our website at: <http://wcaholenewmind.ning.com>.



Josh Hoeflich and Katie Kremer collect data as they attempt to break a Guinness World Record.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- **Students in Karen Jones' and Matt Spangler's Gifted and Talented Resource Room** at all eight elementary schools enjoyed the smell of oranges as they attempted to break the world record of pushing an orange with their noses. The students didn't quite break the world record, one mile in just over 24 minutes, but they computed and compared their results to the record. The activity is part of a unit in which the students are using world records to study, investigate and use algebraic thinking.
- **Amelia Elementary held its first ever Valentine's Day Dance on February 11.** The gym was packed with students and their families. The dancing, chocolate fountain, yummy treats, and photos were a big hit. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success. We look forward to making this a yearly event!



Kindergarten students Ellie Speed, Darby Campbell and Dakotah Reynolds show off their dance moves.

- **The excitement is building for the staff at Amelia Elementary.** They recently were given a tour of their new school by **Ed Dyer**, director of administrative services. The new school is on schedule, on budget and will be opening its doors to students and staff on September 7, 2010. Thanks to the support of the community, the students will experience an educational environment that will provide the tools for a successful future.
- **The NED show visited Brantner last week.** Meg, the show's presenter, performed marvelous yoyo tricks and other feats of magic. She captivated the student audience as she talked about the positive meaning of the NED show: N – never give up, E – encourage others, D – do your best. If you follow the NED way of thinking, you can be a champion.
- **Clough Pike held their Sweetheart Dance on Saturday March 6 at the Holiday Inn Eastgate.** There were more than 300 guests and the night was amazing. Thank you to everyone who helped make this night so special for the girls.
- **Congratulations to Merwin third grader Nathan Cooper and fourth grade student Kelsiey Niolet who were chosen as exhibitors for the 30th Young People's Art Exhibition,** sponsored by the Ohio Art Education Association. We are proud of these two students who earned the prestigious honor of having their art work in this exhibition. Nathan and Kelsiey are students of art teacher **Lynette Garrett.**
- **Merwin Elementary participated in the Destination Imagination Regional Tournament on March 6.** We are so proud of all nine Merwin teams and their team leaders who represented the Merwin Mustangs amazingly. They did a fantastic job and demonstrated true teamwork, sportsmanship and creativity. The teams were: The Terminators, The Fire Dragons, The Incredible 7, The Destinators, Imagination Starlight, DI Kidz, The Cool Aides, C.F.I., and The Fire Rockets. The Cool Aides and The Destinators were awarded the Renaissance Award; C.F.I. brought home the Spirit of Discovery Award. The Terminators and Fire Dragons brought home the 3rd place trophy. Two teams, The Incredible 7 and the Destinators, won 1st place and will be representing Merwin Elementary at the State Tournament on April 17. Congratulations to all!
- **The Merwin PTO is sponsoring a spring Book Fair.** The book fair will be held during regular school hours from Monday, March 22 to Friday, March 26, with an evening event on Wednesday, March 24. On the evening of March 24, grandparents are invited to visit the book fair and art show! Hope to see you there!



Excited Amelia Elementary staff tour new school.



Bryan Buttery, a Brantner second grader, received a free yoyo and a balloon hat because he summarized the meaning of NED in a great way.



Kevin Nelson and his "sweetheart" Rachel.



Far left photo: Dr. Brian Romick makes learning about how to take good care of your teeth fun!

At left: Third grader Charlie Skeens displays his volcano.

- **Summerside first and second grade students enjoyed a visit from Dr. Brian Romick (orthodontist, Mt.Orab) on Friday, March 5, 2010.** Dr. Romick uses puppets, posters and fun to teach the students about good oral hygiene and how to take care of their teeth. Each student received a gift bag containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, a pencil and a few little treats to take home. Summerside students look forward to his visit each year. Thank you, Dr Romick!

- **Summerside third grade literacy students are erupting with excitement over their Reading Street weekly selection called, "Volcanoes: Nature's Incredible Fireworks" by Eve Bunting.** A few young scientists decided to take matters into their own hands by creating real model volcanoes at home! Our new reading series has inspired the students to personalize their learning and extend it into other content areas.



Mary Taylor's third graders forming their web.

- **At Willowville Elementary, Miss Burnett, a UC Intern leads students in Mary Taylor's third grade class in creating a web** to show how people are connected to nature. This was a culminating activity for the end of Unit 3, People and Nature, in the new Reading Street series.

- **Recently the fifth grade students in Mrs. Hickey's social studies class at Willowville worked on Colonial projects.** One student, **Ty DeBonis** wrote a story about traveling back in time. After Mrs. Hickey read it, she asked him to share it with the class. She said that it was probably the single best piece of writing that she has read by a fifth grader in her 15 years of teaching. Some excerpts from the story are, "I found myself in a one room schoolhouse. It was freezing and I didn't bring firewood for the fireplace, so I had to sit way in the back where it was the coldest. There were no smartboards or maps. I was handed a lump of lead and a piece of birch bark to write on. That night I was told to help collect stone to build a fence once the snow thawed. I thought why can't we just buy a



Ty DeBonis, fifth grade student at Willowville Elementary shares his Colonial story with the class.

fence?" He ended the story with "Believe it or not, I think the kids back then enjoyed themselves. If they only knew!!!" After the story was read to the class all of the students applauded. One student got out of her seat and walked straight over to Ty and said, "Ty, if you ever write a book, I will buy it."

- **Second grade students at Willowville Elementary brought in their favorite Dr. Seuss books on March 2** to participate in Read Across America Day. They celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by identifying the theme of some of the books, writing him a letter and making a graph after voting on their favorite book. The students ended the morning by reading one of his most famous books. You can guess which book it was, as students were coaxed by Sam-I-am, and tried eating green eggs and ham!



Genesis Downs and Rayanna Shadoan enjoy green eggs and ham.



Dallas Keoler, Tara Reich and Sydney Barger read in Ms. Miller's class.



Ms. Funk reads to the class.