



# CONNECTION

MARCH 4, 2010

*“Short words are best, and old words, when short, are the best of all.”* — Winston Churchill



## 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/](http://www.westcler.org/AH/) and follow the link under Special Events
- **Amelia High School Performing Arts Boosters are selling Black Platinum Mulch** to benefit AHS Band, Choir, Drama, Orchestra and the Performing Arts Scholarship Fund. Black Platinum Mulch 2.25 cubic foot bags of Premium Hardwood Mulch are available for only \$3.50 per bag through website [www.ahspab.com](http://www.ahspab.com) or mail to AHS PAB Dave Olmstead, 3 Glenpark Ct., Amelia, Ohio 45102. All orders are to be in by March 8. Pick up will be Saturday, March 20 by 5 p.m. at Amelia High School. We will deliver mulch within the West Clermont School District for a fee of \$5 and a minimum of 10 bags. For information or to order, call Dave Olmstead at 617-0806.
- **Amelia High School is holding its 6th Annual Boys and Girls Soccer Camp.** The camp will be held June 14-17 from 8-11a.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](mailto:kemmer_a@westcler.org) or 513-515-3456.
- **Congratulations to Amelia High School senior Cory Clolinger** for qualifying for the State Wrestling Meet! Cory finished 4th at Saturday's District Finals. The Ohio High School State Wrestling Championships take place this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Good luck, Cory!
- **Glen Este music students are out and about selling high quality bagged mulch** from Evans Landscaping again this year and will deliver it directly to your driveway! The profits will go directly to the band for instrument maintenance and instrument purchase. There are four types of mulch to choose from, including Evans Landscaping top seller Dark Supreme. All bags are \$4 each and, for an additional \$5 per order, the band members will deliver the mulch to you. The mulch sale runs through Wednesday, March 11, with delivery of mulch to your home the weekend of March 27-28. Payment may be made by cash, check or credit card. For your convenience, credit card orders may be placed on-line at the band's mulch website <http://wcband.bigcartel.com> or call 607-4194 for more information.

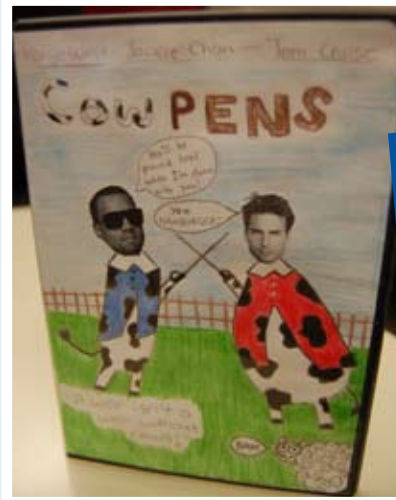
AHS presents  
Cinderella

Crossing the Line  
at GEMS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

- **Eighth grade social studies students in Mark Fogelson's class at Amelia Middle School** created content-based projects based upon their new learning about the American Revolution. Students summarized their thinking and published it as a DVD case for an invented movie. The use of art and humor was encouraged! The amazing products are on display in Mr. Fogelson's classroom at Amelia Middle School.

Pictured is the work of 8th grade social studies students Sara Kearney and Angela Kay. They envisioned a movie entitled, "Cowpens", with content based on the decisive victory in 1781 when Continental troops defeated the British. The movie stars Brigadier General Daniel Morgan.



Cowpens art by Sara Kearney and Angela Kay.

- **Amelia Middle School hosted more Career Speakers on February 5 as part of the 8th grade Career Exploration Program.** Anna Erdmann, a nurse from Good Samaritan Hospital, and Jon Tepsick, the athletic trainer at Amelia High School spoke to the students regarding their careers, training, and preparation. Both the professionals are recent college graduates adjusting to the career life and shared with the students the importance of attendance, dependability and taking personal responsibility. They also shared the need to do what you are good at and what you love. The students will hear two more speakers in March and finish the series in May.



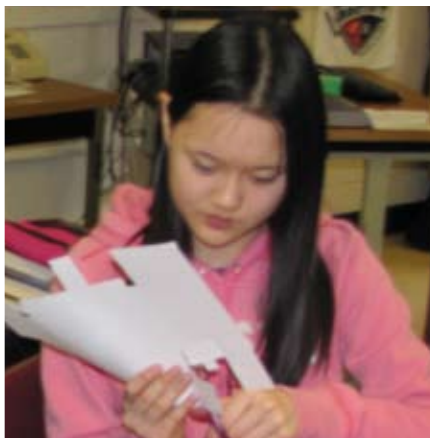
Jon Tepsick, AHS athletic trainer, speaks during the Career Exploration program.

- **The most unusual animals are now on exhibit in the Amelia Middle School library.** Animals such as "Girateepinophant", "Torpedo Fish", "Snoodle", "Sugar Bear", and many more were created and built by students in the 7300 science classes. Students have been studying the characteristics and structures of animals. The assignment was to create an animal using five or more different characteristics from other animals. For example: "Tiddly Poo" has a nose of a pig, wings of a lady bug, goes through complete metamorphosis, a tail of a monkey for balance, buggy eyes, and open circulation. They built their animal out of materials found around the house. Elena McDonald's mouth of her animal was flip flop shoes. Morgan Long's animal was so dangerous that she had to control her animal with a leash. Scott Shilling's animal was a mollusk that eats grass. His animal showed all of the internal organs his animal would need for survival.



Alec Holste, Garrett Weaver, Scott Shilling, Elena McDonald, Paul Svintitski and Trent Edwards show off their "created" animals.

- **Mr. Volpenhein at Glen Este Middle School challenges his math flex class** to create pentominos to explore perimeter area relationships. The students had fun creating their pentominos, which is a figure made up of five connecting squares, then determined how the area affected the perimeter.



Monica He works on cutting out her pentomino.



Tiffany Montgomery and Kaitlyn Garner enjoying the literature circle.

- **Mrs. Hufford’s Language Arts Flex class** participates in literature circles, reading *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *The Cay*, *Holes* and *The Giver*. The Glen Este Middle School students read these novels then discuss questions about the story. Students enjoy reading a book in small groups and analyzing the different perspectives. This helps to get students interested in book clubs early.

- **In Mrs. Ackerman’s Science Flex class at Glen Este Middle School**, the students practice using the process of scientific inquiry while investigating paper airplanes. The students developed questions and procedures, conducted the experiment and analyzed results to review the Scientific Ways of Knowing standards. Some students tested type of paper, design, size of plane and weight of plane.

- **Seventh grade science classes at Glen Este Middle School investigate the great diversity of body plans in arthropods during a grasshopper dissection.** The students learned there is more to those jumping insects than just long legs. The most interesting part was to see the spiracles, which are tiny openings in the grasshopper’s abdomen that allow gas exchange.

- **At Glen Este Middle School, students participated in an activity correlated with the Olweus Bullying Program.** The lesson was titled “Crossing the Line” and is aimed at preventing bullying situations. In this activity, the teacher read a comment or statement. If a student found it to be offensive, they crossed the line (made of masking tape). At the conclusion of the lesson, the class discussed what makes a comment hurtful and ways they can prevent it.



Students Jackson Finland, Kaylee Weaver, Corey Dalton, Jonathan Wilson, Ashley Lorenzo, Jada Burt, Logan Jacobs, Chad Lang, Robbie Heintz and Josh Beasley launch their planes.



Elliott Stockton and Jonathan Wilson dissect a grasshopper.



Students are “crossing the line” as part of a bullying lesson.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

- Fifth grade students at Brantner Elementary completed a service project making fleece scarves.** Over sixty beautiful creations were made by the students and donated to Saul's Homeless Shelter.
- Science gets "physical" at Brantner Elementary.** The fourth graders have been studying matter as part of the physical science unit. One topic was physical properties of matter. The students made "Lost & Found" posters using physical properties to describe the "lost" item. Some of the "lost" items were: a meatball, an Oreo, a crayon, a shark, dogs and cats. The students described the missing items and most included a picture. Rewards for the "lost" items ranged from allowance money to \$1,000,000.
- Clough Pike Elementary Boys Night Out was held on February 25 at Scallywag Tag.** This event was a HUGE success, and fun was had by all.
- Summerside Elementary is holding its 4th Annual Ladies' Night Out on March 18 at 6:30-9:00.** The event will be held in the Summerside Elementary gym at 4639 Vermona Drive. Cost of admission is \$2. which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. There will be vendors, crafters, food and raffles, and fun for all ladies who attend! The Fashion Show starts 7:30 with clothes from Christopher and Banks. Any questions, please call Sherri at 947-7951
- The Summerside fourth grade spent the day at the Cincinnati Nature Center** discovering the way REAL maple syrup is made. They reviewed the process of photosynthesis and how the tree stores the food as sap for the spring when the buds need it to begin to grow. The students got to taste the "raw" material, sap, as it comes from the tree. They saw the CNC evaporator in action, evaporating away 39 gallons of water to make one delicious gallon of maple syrup, which of course they sampled readily.

While not engaged with the making of maple syrup, the students spent time "fishing" for macro invertebrates through a hole in the ice, discovering what living in a log cabin was like and visiting the "bone yard" to witness decomposition. All in all it was a very busy day for Summerside fourth grade.

- The money has been counted and the total for the "Willowville Penny War" is in.** A total of \$319 in pennies and \$307 dollars in silver was collected for a total of \$626.00. Way to go Willowville! The money will be divided between the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society and the school children of Haiti. Thanks to staff members Deb Cunningham and Kris Marrs, Student Council Advisors, for organizing this event.



Fifth graders Courtney Chaffin, Nick Jones, Zach Kinney and Rutva Patel work on their scarves.



Second grader Jared Geiger and his mother Mechelle.



Students check out the woods to see how a tree stores sap.



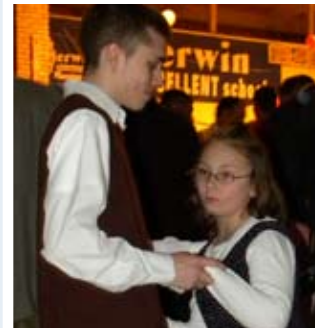
Fifth grade Student Council members survey the jars of money collected.



Banner winners  
Alisa Surgeon,  
Isabella Dawson,  
David Hawthorne,  
Issac Hattar and  
Andrew Williams.

Kindergarten  
student Callie  
Simmons looks  
happy with  
her prize.

- **Summerside Elementary recently honored Dr. Seuss' birthday with a family involvement activity.** Families were invited to create a banner with a quote from any Dr. Seuss book. The families beautifully illustrated such quotes as: "Christmas doesn't come from a store, perhaps Christmas means a little bit more" (*How The Grinch Stole Christmas*) and "A person's a person, no matter how small." (*Horton Hears A Who*). Mrs. Ellen Beavers, Title I teacher, presented the winners with a Seuss Story Collection book and a stuffed Cat In The Hat.



Student  
Peyton Ellis  
and her  
favorite guy!

- **Merwin PTO hosted the Father-Daughter Dance on February 19.** This event is one of the favorites of the year as girls dress up in their Sunday best and have a night out with their favorite guy!

- **Merwin students who participated in the school fund raiser were treated to a magic show by Rick Smith, Jr.** Everyone who attended had a great time.



Students enjoyed the magic show by Rick Smith Jr.

- **Each month Merwin students have the opportunity to eat "Dessert with the Principal."** In February students were treated to chocolate ice cream sundaes by Frisch's Cherry Grove!

- **Mrs. Price, Merwin PE teacher, teaches a skating unit each year.** Students learn to stop, change directions, and even to fall!

- **The Willowville After School Mad Science program, led by Susan Flottesmesch and Tamara Hagen,** has the students crazy about science. This six-week program has exposed students to several interesting science topics. One of the topics was Tantalizing Taste. Mad Science students learned about different types of taste buds and taste categories: sweet, sour, bitter, and salty. They tasted samples of salt, vinegar, sugar, and cocoa powder. Then, they sipped on carbonated lime-flavored water made in class! The students have really enjoyed the last several weeks as "Mad Scientists!"



Erin McNamara,  
first grader in  
Mrs. Noble's class,  
conquers the  
art of standing  
up on skates.

- **According to Holly Hill teacher Anita Vaughn, a 25 year veteran, it started with curiosity.** She heard about SMART Boards while completing her master's program, but didn't know much about them. Then opportunity knocked. When Nancy Parks, Holly Hill principal, asked Anita to become a member of the district's SMART Board pilot team it was game on!

Anita began integrating the SMART Board in her math class. She discovered many interactive activities and images that were helpful in visualizing math concepts. She began using dice for addition practice, base ten blocks, clocks, calculators, graphing, measurement, sorting, etc. Even students walking down the hall would wander in to check out the interactive math lesson!

Once Anita saw how the use of technology increased student motivation and learning, she began to explore other ways to integrate technology and instruction. She now uses technology to project virtual dice with short vowel letter chunks for skills group, projects decodable books from websites, shows author interviews and has students interact with the SMART Board during daily message.

"At first I was frustrated with some of the technical aspects of the SMART Board, but once I got it up and running, I used it regularly. Now everytime I explore I find something new I can use in the classroom. I find new uses everyday," stated Anita.



SMART Board... SMART teacher!