

THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

March 2008

Kevin S. Thacker, Principal ** Glen Este Middle School ** 4342 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd. ** Cincinnati, Ohio 45245
947-7700 ** www.westcler.org/gm/ ** Fax 753-3462

A Letter from the Superintendent

The West Clermont School Board voted to place a 1% Alternative Base Income Tax on the March ballot after a six month study by a volunteer citizen's group investigating school funding solutions recommended it to the Board. The Board listened.

The Alternative Base Income Tax replaces a 7.9 mill emergency operating levy passed by voters in March 2004. The money generated locally by that emergency property tax provides the district with nearly \$10 million per year in general operating expenses. Those funds are used for wages, benefits, instructional materials, workman's compensation, insurance, legal and accounting fees, fuel, energy costs, etc. That emergency levy expires in December 2009.

It is the Board's obligation to provide the means by which the district can operate in a fiscally responsible manner. To that end, we have reduced district expenditures by over \$6.5 million in the past three years and I have directed that another \$1.2 million be cut from the 2008-09 budget. We have reduced full-time teaching and administrative staff by more than 65 people, nearly seven percent of our total instructional and support staff. Another 8-10 staff cuts are slated for next year. We have reduced the district's cost for health care benefits by \$400,000 annually. During the past three years, we have moved all 12 of our schools to excellent or effective status on the state report card. Graduation rates are climbing. We've done that while spending \$1200 below the state average in per pupil expenditures.

West Clermont is one of the largest employers in Clermont county, with over 1100 full, part-time and contracted employees. Teachers, food service workers, bus drivers, maintenance crew, clerical support staff, principals and other supervisory wages and benefits account for nearly 80% of the money the district expends each year. In the past two years, the amount of money West Clermont receives from the state has not increased, despite what our local state legislators say. West Clermont was one of over 300 districts in the state of Ohio to receive NO increase from the state in the last biennium budget. The Governor anticipates cutting school funding by nearly \$100,000,000 in the next two years.

On Wednesday, February 27 there was an Open Community Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Queen City Room at the Union Township Civic Center regarding the 1% Alternative Base Income Tax and its importance. You can also visit the campaign website at www.wcbuildingfutures.org.

Sincerely,

Gary Brooks, Ed.D.

Important Dates

March

- 4 Election Day
- 4 Wash., D.C. Info Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Gym
- 6 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 9 Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward!
- 10 Track Season Begins
- 13 Book Fair Begins
- 13 Band, Chorus, Strings Mtg. for Incoming 6th Grade Students, 7:00 p.m., Amelia PAC
- 15 GEMS Talent Show, 6:00 p.m., GEHS PAC
- 19 Book Fair Ends
- 20 End 3rd Quarter Grading
- 21 Spring Break Begins
- 27 Report Cards Mailed
- 31 School Resumes

April

- 3 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 4 6th Grade Dance, 2:30-4:30 p.m., MPR
- 11 Teacher Inservice, NO SCHOOL
- 17 Spring Picture Day
- 18 Track Pictures After School
- 21 OAT Testing Begins
- 30 OAT Testing Ends

May

- 8 OAT Make-Up Testing Ends

GEMS TALENT SHOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 6:00 P.M. PAC
Tickets \$3.00 - On Sale Week of March 10!

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Students of the Month for February 2008! Glen Este Middle School students of month are chosen for displaying determination and self-motivation.

February

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6-1 - Tyler Sargent | 7-1 - Madison Landon |
| 6-2 - Mark Hutchinson | 7-2 - Brandon Brooks |
| 6-3 - Logan Harris | 7-3 - Macon Overcast |
| Heimann - Ashley Starr | Howes - Gina Dietz |
| | 8-1 - Austin Doppes |
| | 8-2 - Justin Sigel |
| | 8-3 - Brittany Freeman |
| | Burton - Brittany Scheffler |

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

Small School Registration Forms
Are Now Available in the Middle School Office
SMALL SCHOOL REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Glen Este Middle School Mission Statement:

The Glen Este Middle School staff is committed to empowering all students in a safe environment for changes and challenges of the 21st century, through a shared responsibility between home, school and community.

SPORTS NEWS

Two Wrestlers Qualify for State

Glen Este Middle School would like to congratulate **Jonathan Kirschbaum, 7th Grade** and **Matt Noble, 8th Grade** for qualifying to participate in the State Wrestling Meet at Ohio University on **March 14, 15 and 16**. Both wrestlers placed 4th at the District Meet which qualified them for the State Meet. Good luck Jonathan and Matt!

Track News

Track is open to students in the 7th or 8th grade. Welcome back to coaches Bill Blair and Jennie Schwalbach. New to our staff this year is coach Shelley Miller. There will be a track workshop March 3-7 after school. **The official track season begins Monday, March 10**. Students **MUST** have a physical on file in order to start practice. Physical forms are available in the office.

Fall Football

There will be a meeting for 6th and 7th grade students interesting in playing fall football on **Monday, March 17** during WGEM times. Students should listen to announcements for more information. **Sixth Grade Football Fun Day** will be on **Wednesday, March 19** after school. Email Don Jacobs at Jacobs_d@westcler.org for more information.

BFS Starts March 31

The Bigger, Faster, Stronger off-season conditioning program begins **Monday, March 31 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.** All 6th and 7th grade students planning on playing football in the fall are eligible to attend.

CPR/Sports Medicine Classes Offered

CPR and Sports Medicine Classes will be offered on **March 19 and April 30** to interested community members. Classes will be held in the Glen Este Middle School Library from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Fees are \$15.00 for CPR and \$25.00 for Sports Medicine classes. If you are interested contact Tony Romano at romano2@fuse.net.

Hoops for Heart

The Physical Education Department at GEMS is collecting donations for the American Heart Association by organizing a Hoops for Heart staff vs. student basketball game on **Thursday, March 20** during encore classes. Students will play against staff for \$2.00 or students can watch the game for \$1.00. Our school goal is to collect \$1,500. Please contact Mr. Mulvaney or Mr. Redmond at 947-7717 if you have any questions.

News from School Psychologist, Carrie Urshel:
March's highlight is Preventing and Intervening with bullying. Visit www.westcler.org/gm/schoolpsychologist for more information on bullying prevention and intervention.

24-Hour Attendance Line

Parents, please call the 24-hour attendance line directly, if at all possible, at 947-7704 when reporting your child's absence. Parents can request homework after the child has been out for two days by emailing the teachers directly at www.westcler.org/gm, clicking on Staff and then clicking on the grade and team. If you do not have email access, you can request homework on the 24-hour attendance line at the same time you report your child's absence. All homework is sent to the Attendance Office for pick up.

NJHS Candle Sale

National Junior Honor Society is conducting a fundraiser to benefit Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, a non-profit organization devoted to Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and Becker Muscular Dystrophy (BMD) research. NJHS students will be selling 8 oz. soybean candles for \$5.00 each. All candles are smokeless and there are 117 scents to choose from! If you are interested in supporting this fundraiser, please contact a NJHS member to place your order before March 14.

PTO NEWS

**Next PTO Meeting:
Thursday, March 6, 2007
Library, 6:30 p.m.**

The GEMS PTO website (gems-ptu.org) and email for the PTO Board is not available at this time. To contact the board, please use awjones13@excite.com. Your messages will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

PTO Volunteer Opportunities

The **GEMS Book Fair** is Thursday, March 13 through Wednesday, March 19. Volunteers are needed to fill three shifts each day.

6th Grade Dance Ticket Sales - Volunteers are needed Monday, March 31 through Friday, April 4 during 6th grade lunch, 11:25-11:55 a.m.

6th Grade Dance - Friday, April 4, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Volunteers needed to check tickets at the door, sell tickets, pass out snacks and chaperone.

For more information on any of these events or to volunteer, please contact Allison Jones at 374-3318 or awjones13@excite.com.

Thanks to Library Helpers!

Mrs. Meredith has given out quite a few CIA (Caught In the Act of being good) Awards since January! The following students have assisted her by checking in books, sorting books, and placing them on carts. Mrs. Meredith appreciates their assistance! Congratulations to **Anthony Pinto, Michael Seward, David Fehn, Holden Robinson, Jared Ross, Madison Jutze, Gabby Ruelhman and Alexis Carta.**

*Attn: 7th Grade Students & Parents
Washington, D.C. Info Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. in Gym
Please plan to attend this meeting
For information regarding
Next year's Washington, D.C. class trip*

Intradistrict Registration Begins April 7

West Clermont Board of Education permits students to apply for attendance at the school of choice based upon criteria established by the school administration. (See page 122 of your child's school organizer for complete criteria.) **The dates for the intra-district applications for the 2008-09 school year are April 7, 2008 through May 30.** Parents can pick up applications in the school office. **Please note: applications must be renewed every year. Approval is not guaranteed.**

VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE
**JUST A REMINDER:
TUESDAY, MARCH 4 IS ELECTION DAY!
DON'T FORGET TO GET OUT AND VOTE!
EVERY VOTE COUNTS!**
VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE

Band, Chorus & Strings Meeting for Incoming 6th Grade Students

There will be an information meeting about band, chorus and strings for incoming 6th grade students on March 13 at the Amelia Performing Arts Center. For more information, go to www.westcler.org and click under "Announcements."