

THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

"Striving for Excellence"

April 2009

Kevin S. Thacker, Principal ** Glen Este Middle School ** 4342 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd. ** Cincinnati, Ohio 45245
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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

As I was watching the news the other night, most of the focus was on the struggling economy and unemployment rate throughout the country. It's an all too familiar story making the headlines each and every night. I began thinking about our students at GEMS and what the future holds for them.

As a child growing up, I was no different than other little boys wanting to do what my dad did for a living. My father worked at General Motors in Norwood. I had dreams of building Camaros and Firebirds. I could have, too. I had a high school diploma and my father could have helped me. But, in my house, going to college was an expectation and he wanted more for me than working in a factory. During my freshman year in college my dad was laid off when the Norwood plant closed. He was transferred to Dayton where he finished up his career. Unfortunately, many people didn't have the opportunity to transfer and they simply lost their jobs. Today, General Motors and Chrysler are on the verge of bankruptcy and thousands of folks are on the verge of losing their jobs. Many, if not most, of these folks don't have a degree or other skills to fall back on.

As we prepare GEMS students for life after high school, it must be assumed that a post secondary degree or training will be a must for our kids to be employed. We not only have to prepare each student to be accepted into a college, but give them the tools to compete with students all around the world who want to get into that same college. The competition for kids today to get into college and to obtain employment will be tremendous in the future. What will help our students stand out over other students throughout the United States? What do our students need to make them stand out to college recruiters? In my opinion, a "basic" education will not do it for our students. They deserve and need more. Our students deserve to have access to the same resources that other children throughout the U.S. receive. As a school community, we must provide our students the resources to compete. We must make this a priority.

I urge everyone to get out and vote on May 5.

Important Dates

April

- 2 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 3 Spring Picture Day, 7:30 a.m.
- 3 6th Grade Dance, 2:30-4:30 p.m., MPR
- 6-13 Spring Break
- 14 Return to School
- 16 Scoliosis Screening, 7th Grade
- 17 Scoliosis Screening, 8th Grade
- 20 Intra-District Registration Begins
- 20 OAT Begins

May

- 1 Walk-a-Thon Kick-Off
- 7 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 8 OAT Ends
- 8 Interims Sent Home w/Students
- 8 Walk-a-Thon Pledges Due
- 11 Brantner 5th Grade to Visit GEMS
- 12 Clough 5th Grade Visits GEMS
- 13 Summerside 5th Grade Visits GEMS
- 14 Willowville 5th Grade Visits GEMS
- 14 5th Grade Parent Night, 7:00 p.m., PAC
- 15 Walk-a-Thon
- 15 Student of the Month Breakfast, 7:15 a.m.
- 25 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
- 26 6th Grade Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m., PAC
- 27 7th Grade Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m., PAC
- 28 8th Grade Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m., PAC

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Students of the Month for February 2009! Glen Este Middle School Students of the Month are chosen for displaying determination and self-motivation.

February

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| 6-1 R. J. Cass | 7-1 Christina Wilson |
| 6-2 Sarah Ruiz | 7-2 Tyler Burdick |
| 6-3 Lindsey Malott | 7-3 Kayde Mock |
- Burton-Avery Purkiser
- 8-1 Sydney Null
 - 8-2 Ashley Dove
 - 8-3 Mollie McDonough

Spring Concerts Coming

Band, Chorus and Orchestra students will have their Spring concerts on May 26, 27 and 28 in the PAC at 7:00 p.m. Plan to come and enjoy the event!

- May 26—6th Grade Band, Chorus and Orchestra
- May 27—7th Grade Band, Chorus and Orchestra
- May 28—8th Grade Band, Chorus and Orchestra

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

Wrestlers Place at State Championship

Three wrestlers competed in the Ourway State Championship last month at Nationwide Arena in Columbus. Congratulations to **Matthew Kennedy** who took 4th, **Max Davis** who took 3rd, and our first ever State Champ **Gage Branson**.

BFS

The Bigger, Faster, Stronger (BFS) football conditioning program **starts Wednesday, April 15** from 2:30-4:00 p.m. All 6th and 7th grade students planning on playing football in the fall are eligible to attend.

Track

The first track meet of the season is our Polar Bear meet on March 31. Parent volunteers will be needed. Contact Mr. Ball at 947-7710 if you're interested. Upcoming meets:

- Saturday, April 4 - New Richmond Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
- Monday and Tuesday, April 15 & 16 - Loveland Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

Go to www.westcler.org/gm and click on "Athletics" for a complete listing of the 2009 track schedule.

Volleyball

Volleyball intramurals will start **April 28** and run every Tuesday and Thursday through May 21 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Coach Korfhagen will hand out information on Tuesday, April 14 during lunch times to interested 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. **Volleyball summer camp** dates will be **July 13-17** from 1:00-3:30 p.m. More info will be handed out in May about summer camp.

CPR/Sports Medicine Classes Offered

CPR and Sports Medicine classes will be offered to interested community members. These are one night classes offered on two different dates: **April 22** or **May 27**. Classes will be held in the Glen Este Middle School Library from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Fees are \$15.00 for CPR and \$25.00 for Sports Medicine classes. If you are interested, contact Tony Romano at tromano@zoo

Intra-District Registration

The West Clermont School District believes that students should be permitted to attend their school of choice, based upon criteria established by the school administration. Intra-district registration applications will be accepted April 20, 2009 through June 4, 2009. Applications are available at any school office in the West Clermont School District. For more information about intra-district registration, please refer to pages 2 and 3 in the Middle School Handbook.

Student Dress Code

All students are expected to appear at school in reasonable, neat, safe and appropriate attire for the academic environment. Now that Spring is here, students and their parents are reminded that:

- The length of shorts, skirts and dresses must be no higher than mid-thigh in length.
- Clothing with rips, tears or holes is inappropriate for school.
- Pants/shorts/skirts must fit at the waist. Exposure of the undergarments is not allowed.

Honor Band/Honor Orchestra

The 7th and 8th grade band students had the opportunity to perform in the **Land of Grant Honor Band**. They had to audition at Western Brown High School. The top students from Brown County, Adams County, Clermont County and Highland County were selected for the band. Glen Este had five students make the honor band. They were **Brian Ginn** (7th grade trumpet), **Rachel Harrison** (7th grade alto saxophone), **Jacob Collins** (7th grade alto saxophone), **Mary Beth Smith** (8th grade bass clarinet) and **Hannah Davis** (9th grade baritone saxophone). They rehearsed and performed at the Performing Arts Center on February 27, February 28 and March 1. They did an excellent job! On March 6 and 7 two orchestra students performed with the **District 14 Honor Orchestra**. They were **Zoe Bowman** (7th grade violin) and **Marissa Craddock** (8th grade cello). They rehearsed and performed at Princeton High School and did an outstanding job!

PTO NEWS

Next PTO Meeting:
Thursday, April 2, 2009
Library, 6:30 p.m.

April Meeting

PTO will hold elections for next year's PTO Board Officers at the April 2 meeting.

Thank You

Thank you to Mr. Thacker, who explained to our PTO in detail the upcoming school levy facts and the vital importance to our schools. Thanks, also, to Mr. Schoening from the GEMS Art Department for introducing the teachers and parents to the exciting projects that the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students have been working on this year.

6th Grade Dance

There will be a dance for 6th grade students after school on **Friday, April 3 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.** in the MPR. Tickets will be on sale all week at 6th grade lunch time for \$3.00.

Book Fair

The book fair will run from **Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 3**. Information flyers will be going home with students on Thursday, March 26.

Volunteers Needed

PTO has a need for volunteers at these upcoming events:

- 6th Grade Dance Ticket Sales - Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 3, 11:25-11:55 a.m.
- 6th Grade Dance - Friday, April 3, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Book Fair - Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 3, various shifts available.

Please sign up in the office or go to www.gems-ptο.org to volunteer.

*Please visit us at www.gems-ptο.org
to get all the latest on your GEMS PTO!*

School Fees

School fees are past due, if you have not paid already. Report cards will be held if school fees have not been paid. Please call Judy Terris at 947-7708 if you are having financial difficulties or would like to set up a payment plan.

Team 7-3 Participates in Earth Day

Garlic mustard is an invasive plant that becomes established in natural plant communities and wild areas, detrimental to our native wildflowers and tree saplings. Hand-pulling these distinctive plants is the best way to remove them and protect native flora growing nearby. In celebration of Earth Day, 2009, **Team 7-3** will be participating in the **Garlic Mustard Pull at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 18 at Chilo Lock 34 Park**, located on Highway 52 in Chilo. Community members are invited to participate.

Senior Citizen Fair

Thursday, April 2, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Amelia Middle School

Amelia Middle School will hold the second annual Senior Fair on April 2 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. The event will include a free dinner, courtesy of Golden Rule Catering. Senior citizens will receive information from the following organizations, to name a few:

- *Community Services*
- *Alzheimer's Assisted Living*
- *Angels Home Health Services*
- *Clermont County Library*
- *General Health District*
- *Clermont Transportation Connection (CTC)*

Entertainment will be provided by the Amelia Middle School orchestra. Last year's fair won the 2009 Council on Aging John Wycliffe Fleming Youth Award.