

THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

March 2009

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Dear Parents.

The West Clermont School Board has placed a substitute levy on the May 5 ballot. The 6.91 mill continuing levy would replace the 7.9 mill five year emergency levy that was passed in 2004. That levy expires at the end of 2009. The substitute levy will mean no increase in taxes. The district will still have to cut \$1.8 million from the budget because the levy will not provide enough revenue to cover district expenses. Until the economy turns around, the Board and Administration feel that the substitute levy is the best option for the community.

This reduction is the latest in a series of budget cuts totaling \$11.5 million dollars that the Superintendent and Board have implemented since passage of a 7.9 mill emergency levy in March 2004. Since that time, the Board has eliminated more than 100 positions from the district across all job classifications.

Anticipated cuts for the 2009-2010 school year include:

- Fourteen teachers and fourteen support staff
- Five administrative positions
- \$200,000 reduction in service contracts, opportunities for students, professional development, and energy savings
- Closing of two small schools: Applied Health Sciences (GEHS) and Creative Arts and Design (AHS).

Students currently enrolled in these two schools will select another option for the coming school year. This year's juniors and seniors will be permitted to graduate with the distinctive 'colors' of Applied Health Sciences or Creative Arts and Design in 2010.

The Superintendent, Board, and building administration continue to monitor the performance of each of our schools. Small Schools will continue to evolve in order to better serve the needs of our students and community.

These schools, services, and positions will not be reinstated regardless of the outcome of the May 5 substitute operating levy, which asks voters to continue funding West Clermont Local Schools at the same level they are currently funded.

Some, but not all, of these employee reductions will come through attrition. Individuals whose positions will be eliminated will be notified according to the district's contractual timeline in the next several weeks.

Failure to pass the May 5 operating levy will result in catastrophic cuts totaling nearly \$10,000,000 (14% of general fund operating funds). A reduction of this magnitude would necessitate massive layoffs of teachers and staff in all areas, elimination of elective and a dramatic reduction of transportation for the district's 9,200 students.

Important Dates

March

- 4 Wash., D.C. Info Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Gym
- 5 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 8 Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward!
- 9 Track Season Begins
- 13 GEHS Small School Registration Forms Due
- 19 GEMS Talent Show, 7:00 p.m., PAC
- 20 Student of the Month Breakfast, 7:15 a.m.
- 24 End 3rd Quarter Grading
- 27 Teacher Inservice, NO SCHOOL
- 30 Book Fair Begins
- 31 Report Cards Mailed

April

- 2 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 3 6th Grade Dance, 7:00-9:00 p.m., MPR
- 3 Spring Pictures, 7:30-10:00 a.m.
- 6 Spring Break, NO SCHOOL
- 14 School Reopens
- 20 Intradistrict Registration Begins
- 20 OAT Testing Begins

GEMS TALENT SHOW
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 7:00 P.M. PAC
Tickets \$3.00

Students of the Month

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

January

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 6-1 - Lindsey Singleton | 7-1 - Devon Shannon |
| 6-2 - Luke Weinstein | 7-2 - Kristine Mai |
| 6-3 - Joshua Beasley | 7-3 - Jamie Thomas |
| 8-1 - Logan Shannon | |
| 8-2 - Hunter Meadors | |
| 8-3 - Larissa Bishop | |

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE STUDENTS
Small School Registration Forms
Are Now Available in the Middle School Office
SMALL SCHOOL REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, MARCH 13

SPORTS NEWS

Basketball Results

The girls basketball teams in both the 7th and 8th grade did exceptionally well in the Invitational Tournaments. The 7th grade girls received 1st place and the 8th grade girls received 2nd place. Congratulations to both teams!

Wrestlers Qualify for State

Four 6th grade GEMS wrestlers qualified for the State Championship Meet. Congratulations to **Gage Branson**, **Matthew Kennedy** and **Brandon Tucker** who were all previous District Champs and **Brandon Burris** who finished second. **Gage Branson** also became the first 6th grade student from GEMS to qualify for the Ohio Junior High State Championship. He finished second in the District Tournament at Moeller. **Max Davis** is also congratulated, as he finished 7th in the District and is the first alternate for the State Tournament.

Track News

Track conditioning begins Monday, March 2 after school until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. **The official track season begins Monday, March 9.** Everyone must have a physical form on file with the Athletic Director by March 9. Physical forms are available in the office. The first track meet of the season is our Polar Bear meet on March 31. Parent volunteers will be needed. Contact Mr. Ball, Athletic Director, at 947-7710 if you are interested.

Fall Football

Sixth grade students interested in playing football next year as 7th graders should visit the 7th grade football website. The link is found on the GEMS website under "Athletics" or at <http://www.westcler.org/gm/jacobsonald/football.htm>. There is an "Important Dates" link that will have information on Football Fun Day (April 3, 2:30-3:30 p.m.), BFS (Bigger, Faster, Stronger) workouts, and other events. There will be a general information meeting on March 31 during students' WGEM time for current 6th and 7th graders.

BFS Starts in April

The Bigger, Faster, Stronger (BFS) off-season football conditioning program will start after Spring Break. Students should listen to announcements for exact dates. 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 to interested community members. These are one night classes offered on three different dates: **March 25, 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@zoomtown.com or call 575-5847.

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 pickup.

PTO NEWS

Next PTO Meeting:
Thursday, March 5, 2009
Library, 6:30 p.m.

Thanks to Volunteers

The PTO was happy to meet and greet so many of the middle school parents at the February parent/teacher conferences. Thanks to all of our parents who supplied the delicious desserts staff. Both nights were a huge success!

7th/8th Grade Dance

The Trojan Dance will take place Friday, March 6 in the MPR from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Tickets will be on sale for \$3.00, March 2 through March 6 during 7th and 8th grade lunch times.

PTO Volunteer Opportunities

- March 2-6, Trojan Dance ticket sales during 7th and 8th grade lunch times.
- March 6, Trojan Dance chaperones, 7:00-9:00 p.m., MPR.
- The week of March 30, 6th grade dance ticket sales during 6th grade lunch times.

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

*Please visit us at www.gems-pt.org
To get all the latest on your GEMS PTO*

***Attn: 7th Grade Students & Parents
Washington, D.C. Info Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. in Gym***

Intradistrict Registration Begins April 7

West Clermont Board of Education permits students to apply for attendance at their school of choice based upon criteria established by the school administration. (See page 2-3 of your child's Middle School Handbook for complete criteria.) **The dates for the intra-district applications for the 2009-10 school year are April 20, 2009 through June 4.** Parents can pick up applications in the school office. **Please note: applications must be renewed every year.**

Group to Begin

The "Students of Divorce" group will begin March 6. The group will be facilitated by Mrs. Orlemann and is open to any student who has experienced a divorce in their family and could benefit from the support and encouragement of their peers. Lesson guides will be given to parents as we progress through the group so they can follow up at home. All information shared in the group will be confidential.

**NO SCHOOL March 27
Teacher In-Service Day**

Book Fair March 30 - April 3

7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Students Attend During Language Arts Classes
