

# Around the Schools

## Art Teacher Attends National Conference



Staci Peltz, art teacher at Holly Lane and Hilliard elementary schools, was one of only 40 professionals selected from the Eastern United States to participate in The Rauschenberg/The Power of Art Conference, held April 24-26 in Washington, D.C.

The Power of Art is a highly participatory conference of diverse educators, teaching artists and leaders committed to arts-infused experiences for students with learning differences. Peltz had to submit a

six-page application, lesson plans, her philosophy of teaching and student work examples for consideration. This year The Power of Art expanded its focus to bring best practices from the learning differences field to enhancing creativity and collaboration in K-12 learning more broadly.

At the conference, Peltz received direct, hands-on experience with a variety of learning strategies, opportunities for peer coaching and knowledge exchange, as well as discussions with the President's Counsel of Art and Humanities in the areas of arts learning, special education and community arts. The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme at Westlake's four elementary schools focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. Peltz will use the skills she learned at the conference to reach the diverse needs of students who have a variety of learning styles.

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## Superior Ratings for WHS Concert, Symphonic Bands



The WHS Concert Band (left, top) and Symphonic Band (left, bottom) earned overall "Superior" ratings from judges at the Ohio Music Education Association State Band Contest on April 25 at North



Royalton High School. The Symphonic Band was the only North-east Ohio band to earn unanimous "Superior" ratings from every judge in the most difficult Class AA. The bands are led by Raymond Walczuk.

# Parkside Bazaar

The Westlake Environmental Club & The Maasai Music Project present The Parkside Bazaar flea market & car wash, Saturday, May 17, 8am to 4pm, @ Parkside Intermediate School. Live music, car wash, photo booth, food, clothing, books, toys, tools, housewares and more. Proceeds benefit the Maasai Music Project.

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## WHS Senior Chosen for German Exchange Program



WHS senior Rudy Keppler was accepted for the Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange program that will offer him a chance to attend a year of school in Germany, participate in a vocational program and expose him to work experience through an internship with a German company. The program is supported by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag. Rudy will receive two months of intensive language preparation upon arrival in Germany at the end of June before being assigned to a host family and school. He is hoping to study in the areas of international business, petroleum engineering or forestry. He was nominated for the program by his German teacher, Kristen Harter.

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## WHS Senior Wins Congressional Art Competition



WHS senior Rachelle Bish took the Best of Show award in the 16th District Congressional Art Competition for her digital work, "Southern Cassowary." Bish was recognized by Congressman Jim Renacci. Her artwork will now hang in Washington, D.C., for one year at the U.S. Capitol. This is the sixth time in seven years WHS artists have earned awards in the Congressional Art Competition.

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## Student Groups Win National Contest, Save Gorilla Habitats

The Westlake Environmental Club (E-Club) and Maasai Music Project (MMP) won two national competitions sponsored by the Cincinnati Zoo. The groups won the Go Bananas! Challenge and the Most Creative Campaign. The purpose of the contest was to raise awareness of the need to protect the habitat of gorillas. The E-Club and MMP accomplished this challenge through a creative video and cell phone collection campaign. Cell phones and video votes were collected through a group effort from students reach out to the community and their schools for support. With a total of 1,636 cell phones collected, the groups beat last year's Challenge winner by 446 phones. The E-Club and MMP are the first group to win both contests. The groups were awarded \$5,000, which will be used to cover the costs for the MMP summer trip to Kenya.

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## Parkside students win Arbor Day Poster Contest

The Westlake Tree Commission held its second Arbor Day poster contest, awarding six Parkside Intermediate fifth-grade students with ribbons for their posters and essays about "Why trees are important to the City of Westlake." Winning entries came from Ian Healey, Paul Rossander, Gabriel Samide, Sarah Hamed, Neil Thakkar and Macey Chatterton. These students received ribbons and were honored with a Proclamation from Mayor Dennis Clough proclaiming their day in Westlake.

