

# Around the Schools

... a publication for and  
about Westlake City  
Schools employees

## IRS 2010 mileage rates

The IRS issued the 2010 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 50 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 16.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than last year's and reflect lower transportation costs compared to a year ago.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for any vehicle used for hire or for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

## Ballot issue

The Westlake Board of Education voted at its Jan. 11 meeting to accept a scaled-back recommendation to address the school district's structurally poor and overcrowded school buildings.

The Board passed the first of two necessary resolutions to place an \$84 million bond issue on the May ballot. The Board will vote on a second resolution at its Jan. 25 meeting. Dr. Keenan will be visiting all buildings in the near future to share the latest information on the facilities process and to answer any questions.

You can read the minutes from the Jan. 11 Board meeting at <http://www.westlake.k12.oh.us/AdminBldg/BOE/BOE%20pdf/010410BN.pdf>

## Design Squad kayaks

On Jan. 6, a group of WHS engineering and technology students from Adam Purdy's classes visited the Westlake Recreation Center pool to test kayaks they designed and built as part of their Design Squad class, modeled after the popular PBS show.

The students worked in groups to design and construct the one-person kayaks. They were provided PVC pipe, pex tubing, zip ties and marine shrink wrap to use for construction.

The three teams tested their design in the pool and raced them to determine who constructed the fastest craft. Superintendent Dr. Keenan, WHS Principal Tim Freeman, LBMS math teacher Judy McMasters and Dianne Burrowbridge from CSU Engineering Department were on hand to judge the best craft based on design, construction, stability and aesthetics.

See a photo on the next page.

## Ashland University e-courses

Ashland University has partnered with Virtual Education Software, inc. to offer graduate level continuing education courses for K-12 educators on CD-ROM or online. These interactive courses provide expert instruction at a pace that fits your schedule.

To learn more about these e-courses visit <http://www.virtualeduc.com/e-announcements/ashland-university/ashland.htm>.

# Geography Bee winners

Parkside 6th grader Tommy Bowles and LBMS eighth grader Austin Moran won the school-level competitions of the National Geographic Bee and will go on to compete to represent Ohio at the national competition in April.

Twelve finalists at Parkside and 18 finalists at LBMS answered oral questions on geography after earning a qualifying score on a written test in November.

The winner of the state Bee earns a trip to Washington, D.C., for the National Geographic Bee National Championship on May 26.



**A member of the WHS Design Squad class races his team's kayak across the pool at the Westlake Recreation Center.**

**Around the Schools is published weekly online by the Westlake City Schools communications department. Please forward information for publication to Communications Coordinator Kim Bonvissuto at the Administration Building, or call (440) 250-1258 or email [bonvissuto@wlake.org](mailto:bonvissuto@wlake.org) Deadline for submitting materials is Wednesday at Noon.**

**The Westlake City School District is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action agency and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, political affiliation or disability.**

## CAC changes

### January meeting

The Citizens Advisory Committee has moved its Jan. 18 meeting to Jan. 25 to accommodate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

To learn more about the CAC visit <http://www.westlake.k12.oh.us/CAC/>

## Horace Mann-Abraham Lincoln Fellowship Program

Fifty U.S. educators will have the opportunity to study the life and legacy of America's 16th president.

Open to full-time K-12 teachers of any discipline the Horace Mann-Abraham Lincoln fellowship program features a 5-day institute at the Abraham

Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, IL.

Fellows will participate from June 20-26 or July 11-18. No special knowledge of history or Lincoln is required. The program covers the expense of round-trip transportation,

as well as lodging and most meals.

Applications are due Feb. 12 and must be submitted online at [www.horacemann.com/resources/fellowships/default.aspx](http://www.horacemann.com/resources/fellowships/default.aspx)

## Great Programming on WHBS

- Jan. 18 A: Varsity boys basketball v. Brecksville (1/8)  
B: Financial Aid Night for seniors/parents (12/3)
- Jan. 19 A: The Demon Zone: Year 2 episode  
B: The Demon Zone: Year 2 episode
- Jan. 20 A: Varsity girls basketball v. Amherst (1/16)  
B: The Demon Zone: Year 2 episode
- Jan. 21 A: Varsity girls basketball v. Amherst (1/16)  
B: Professional Series #54: Timberdoodle & Don Kittle
- Jan. 22 A: Wrestling v. North Olmsted (1/15)  
B: The Demon Zone: Episode #16
- Jan. 23 A: Wrestling v. North Olmsted (1/15)  
B: The Demon Zone: Episode #16
- Jan. 24 A: Wrestling v. North Olmsted (1/15)  
B: The Demon Zone: Episode #16

**Program A begins at: 8am, Noon, 4pm, 8pm, Midnight, 4am**

**Program B begins at: 10:10am, 2:10pm, 6:10pm, 10:10pm, 2:10am, 6:10am**

**WHBS sponsor credits begin at: 7:50am, 3:50pm, 7:50pm, 11:50pm, 3:50am**