

Around the Schools

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

International outreach

The WHS American Field Service Club is collecting used sporting goods to ship to troops overseas.

The AFS focuses on cultural exploration and international outreach. Club Officer Karoline Szczepanek, a WHS senior, came up with the idea after receiving a letter from her brother, Cpl. Kasey Szczepanek, a 2006 WHS graduate stationed in Afghanistan. He wrote his family requesting some of his old sports equipment for his platoon. The troops don't have much access to electricity and need items to use for entertainment in their spare time. The WHS AFS is collecting used sporting goods, as well as playing cards.

At the high school, drop boxes will be located in the cafeteria during lunch periods, the main office and the library. Boxes also will be located at LBMS, Parkside, Holly Lane, Dover and Hilliard schools. Collections will take place through Dec. 16, with items shipped by Dec. 18 to USMC platoon in Afghanistan.

WHS English teacher Sarah Reichert oversees the AFS Club.

Facilities update

The 101-year-old Red Brick school building came down on Nov. 23. The brick reservation list is now closed. More than 500 bricks have been claimed. Additional bricks will be used at the new middle school to create a walkway for pedestrians. The Public School stone and the star on the building were removed successfully, as well as the stone arch, all of which will be incorporated into the new buildings.

The Board of Education will hold a special meeting tonight at 5:30pm at the WHS library to discuss the exterior design for the high school. Everyone is invited to offer input.

At its Nov. 22 meeting, the Board voted to go with STAN and Associates Inc., an engineering firm out of Dayton, for enhanced commissioning on the Master Facilities Plan Phase I project. The commissioning agent assures that the building mechanical systems will function within the parameters established as the basis for their design. The agent establishes a commissioning plan to be followed throughout the design and construction phases of the project, establishes operational objectives, monitors installation procedures and incorporates functional testing protocols.

Demons Club spirit wear sale

The Demons Club Spirit Wear Holiday Sale is winding down. Order online at the Demons Club Store found on the Demons Club website at WestlakeDemonsClub.com. The sale runs through Dec. 1 to ensure delivery of items by Christmas. Orders can be picked up Saturday, Dec. 18, at the WHS cafeteria from 10am to Noon.

Items on the website include wind jackets, golf shirts, gym shorts, beach towels, etc. Questions? Email info@WestlakeDemonsClub.com.

CCW scholarship

College Club West is a non-profit Westside club whose members are all women with college degrees. One of the club's goals is to continue to financially support other westside female residents who want to attend college and may be in need of scholarship assistance. For more information on the 2012 scholarship contact ccwscholarship@gmail.com or WHS foreign language teacher Cheryl Bendik, who is on the College Club West Scholarship committee, at bendik@wlake.org.

Robotics STEM experience

High school teachers whose students may be interested in a STEM career are encouraged to assemble a team for the regional Mini-Urban Challenge, which will be held April 16-17 in Dayton. The Ohio contest is part of a national competition sponsored by The Institute of Navigation (ION) and the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory. Each registered student team designs and operates a robotic car using sensors to navigate a LEGO city.

The robotic cars are developed using LEGO MINDSTORMS Education kits that ION provides free to each participating high school. Register by Feb. 16. The top two teams from six regional competitions will be invited to compete at the national contest in Washington, D.C., with travel expenses paid by ION. For the rules, an application, video from the 2010 competition and more details, please visit the Mini-Urban Challenge website at <http://www.ion.org/outreach/muc/>



The Dover kitchen staff -- Kym Fox, Juan Sanchez and Carol Karohl -- dressed up for Dover Elementary School's annual Famous Turkey Gravy Day. We hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you for all you do for the children of the Westlake City School District!

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 Deadline for submitting materials is Wednesday at Noon.

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Mid-level instruction seminar

A one-day seminar titled Middle Level Instruction That Works, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 3 in Butler County. The event is presented by the 2010 Ohio Middle Level Association in partnership with ODE's Ohio Schools To Watch program, the Ohio Federation of Teachers and Otterbein University.

The program will highlight research-based strategies for aligning curriculum, instruction and assessment to increase educators' effectiveness and improve student learning. Middle-level Ohio teachers and principals will share best practice strategies for improving student success.

The seminar will be held at the Miami University Voice of America Learning Center in West Chester. For the registration form and details, visit <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=280> or visit education.ohio.gov and click on Events.

Response requested to survey on draft model curricula text

ODE invites teachers, curriculum leaders and other administrators to take a survey on the draft model curricula, based on the newly adopted revised standards in science and social studies, as well as the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English/language arts, which will be effective in 2014-2015. ODE will incorporate revisions into the model curricula text, which will be placed within an interactive, Web-based tool that is currently under construction. The model curriculum text itself is due for adoption by the State Board in March 2011, and the related website is expected to be completed during the 2011-2012 school year. The survey closes Jan. 14. For the survey and links to the draft model curricula text, revised content standards and other resources related to specific content areas, visit <http://survey.education.ohio.gov/se.ashx?s=60DA72702F4906A7>