

Thonnings works to bring challenge to Ohio

LBMS Technology teacher Kurt Thonnings is trying to teach his students where wind comes from, the concept of an energy transfer, and the difference between a volt and an amp in a wind turbine design contest.

The KidWind Challenge is a student-oriented wind turbine design contest that challenges

students to design and construct their own wind turbines. The goal of the project is to create something that is both efficient and elegant.

The KidWind Challenge started in a New York middle school classroom and has spread to Virginia, Washington, D.C., California, Iowa, South Dakota, Alaska, Minnesota and

Colorado, among other states. Thonnings is trying to bring a KidWind event to Ohio.



Spring 2012 staff excellence nominations sought

It's that time again, please consider nominating several classified and certified staff members in your building for the Spring 2012 staff excellence awards.

We must have TWO separate nominations for each nominee, along with a third one from the principal/supervisor. The more nominations we received for each nominee, the more information the committee

will have to evaluate the recipients. If you have nominated a co-worker in the last year, that name will stay on the list, and the school can continue to submit additional nominations for that person.

Please submit signed, completed forms to Jackie Stroh by pony or scanned email by Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Branding guidelines online

As you may be aware, the WCSD underwent a branding process, introducing a block "W" and an updated Demon as the new face of the Westlake Schools. You can now find branding guidelines online at <http://beta.westlake.k12.oh.us/admin/communications/default.aspx>. We will be uploading files of logos shortly. Thank you for your help in branding the WCSD.

SPARK PE training offered

ODE is offering 40 middle school physical education teachers training in the Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK) PE curriculum on Jan. 23 and 24 in Dublin, Ohio. Application deadline is Jan. 18. Participants will be required to implement the SPARK curriculum during the 2011-2012 school year. Training and materials are free. For more information visit the ODE site.

WCSD students to compete for state Bee title

Parkside sixth grader Patrick Lee and LBMS seventh grader Justin Krantz won the school-level competitions of the National Geographic Bee and will now take a written test to qualify to compete at the state level in March.

The school-level bee, which involves student finalists answering oral questions on geography, was the local round in the 24th annual National Geographic Bee. In March, the school-level winners will compete to represent Ohio at the national contest in Wash-

ington, D.C., in May. The national winner earns a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership to the national Geographic Society.

At Parkside, the top five finalists (pictured bottom right) were Kate Fulton, Sanil Gosain, Patrick Lee, Matthew Vulku and Crystal Zhao. Patrick won the competition. At Lee Burneson Middle School, top finishers (pictured top right) were Justin Krantz and eighth graders Thomas Bowles and Emma Franklin.



Green initiative involves nightly computer shutdowns

As a part of the district's green initiative to lower energy consumption and to save money, the Technology Department tested the district-wide shutdown of all classroom computers. It was successful. Therefore, nightly shutdowns are now in effect for classroom computers.

Antivirus and system updates will occur before the automated computer shutdowns, which will happen at 8pm each night. The computers will automatically restart at 6am each weekday. On the weekends, they will remain off from Friday at 8pm until Monday morning at 6am. If you need to use the computers in

the evenings or on weekends, you can simply power them on, but we ask that you power them back off if it is during the normal shutdown hours.

Lower consumption should be seen on our next electric bill, and significantly lower consumption for the month beginning in February.

If any of your classroom computers were NOT turned on this morning when you arrived, please submit

a work order to that we can make sure that the settings are correct for your individual computer.

**- Technology Coordinator
Renee Bailey**



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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