

Around the Schools

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

Observe Constitution Day

Educational institutions receiving federal funding are required to plan an education program celebrating Constitution Day. This year's event is 224 years from the original date the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. ODE offers the following resources that may be useful in planning Constitution Day events and activities:

- The National Archives and Records Administration at <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/>;
- Federal Resources for Educational Excellence at <http://www.ed.gov/free/constitution/index.html> include information from more than 30 federal agencies;
- The National Constitution Center at <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/>;
- The Library of Congress at <http://memory.loc.gov/amem/collections/continental/>;
- Constitution Facts at <http://www.constitutionday.cc/>;
- Liberty Day at <http://www.libertyday.org/index.html>.

Design Squad Winners

Scott Kutz's WHS engineering/technology students were the national grand prize winners in the Design Squad Nation Build Big Contest. The team of Kalin Ngo, Robert Schill and Paul Poulos won for their project "String Thing," configured like a linear guitar consisting of several wooden boxes designed to play the classic piece "Jesu Joy of Man's Desire" by J.S. Bach.

The team will receive a Cisco UltraHD Flip Camera and a video chat with Design Squad Nation hosts. To see their project in action visit <http://pbskids.org/designsquad/contest/index.html>. CNET.com also featured the winning design at http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-20102370-1/kids-rubber-band-instrument-plays-bach-nets-prize/.

Other WHS finalists were Scott Michaud and Dane Rimko for their Paper Table Kick Stick Challenge project; Scott Hulver and Steve Orange for their compressed air powered Launch It project; and Jennifer Chern and Kalin Ngo for their Cardboard Furniture Living Room Set project.

Summer in the lab

A WHS senior spent her summer researching a hot topic in sports medicine – the impact of concussions.

Lauren Choban spent her summer as a science intern at the Spine Research Laboratory at Lutheran Hospital. The Cleveland Clinic Office of Civic Education Initiatives Summer Internship Program is a paid nine-week program that fosters 21st century skills where students explore science and various health careers through one-on-one mentoring relationships with Cleveland Clinic doctors. Students work with caregivers, medical students and internship alumni.

Lauren's internship culminated with a research report entitled "Cleveland Clinic Concussion Experience." She extracted concussion data from the Cleveland Clinic's database of the 13,000 student athletes Cleveland Clinic Sports Health oversees in Northeast Ohio. She digitized the data into an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed scores for athletes ages 13 to 20 who participated in basketball, football, soccer, lacrosse and wrestling. Lauren concluded that current neuro-cognitive and motor assessments are satisfactory in tracking recovery and return to play time for student athletes. She recommended future assessments analyze the effect of gender on concussion tests, examine a larger population of athletes and compare baseline scores to post-concussion scores.

PhysEd facilitators needed

ODE is accepting applications until Oct. 3 to fill 12 content facilitator positions to support the physical education evaluation rollout. Facilitators will provide training to help educators understand how to use the evaluation instrument. Educators will be required to use the evaluation instrument beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Facilitators will be trained this November and will begin work during the winter of 2012.

Facilitators should have a master's degree in education and five years of classroom teaching experience (K-12 or higher education). Stipends will be provided.

For more information or to apply, visit <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODE-Detail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=1793&ContentID=111048> or contact Lisa Lyle Henry at lisa.henry@ode.state.oh.us or (614) 728-7732.

Instructional documents available

Updated versions of the prekindergarten through grade 3 model curriculum documents for social studies have been posted to the academic content standards website and are available for downloading at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1706&ContentID=76598>. Updated versions of the high school model curriculum will be posted soon.

Ohio educators may use a new presentation to continue preparing for the transition to the revised standards in English language arts. The PowerPoint presentation, available at <http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1699&ContentID=86942>, is titled Introduction to the ELA Common Core State Standards and Model Curriculum.



WHS juniors and swim team members Izabella Jamsek, Teresa Blair and Nora Lee performed the National Anthem a cappella at Progressive Field on Aug. 27 before the Tribe took on the Kansas City Royals. The trio has been singing at swim meets for two years. [Photo Credit: Ron Stephenson]

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.

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.

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, is set aside to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. Nine Hispanic Americans will receive the Governor's Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award this month.

For suggestions on planning classroom-related activities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, please visit <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=11&ContentID=111497>.

eTech Ohio Library

eTech Ohio is expanding its library of online, on-demand professional development resources by making Atomic Learning available to public school districts and community schools at no cost. Learn more at <http://www.etech.ohio.gov/online-learning/atomic/>.

Deepest Sympathies

Please keep the family of driver Celia Kubincanek in your thoughts after the sudden loss of her daughter, Jennifer, 30, of North Ridgeville. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Kubincanek and Transportation families for their loss.