

Around the Schools

Academic Challenge



Westlake High School's Academic Challenge Team finished undefeated in its bracket at the Aurora Invitational Tournament held Nov. 16. The win qualifies the team for regional competition. The Ohio Academic Competition Regional Tournament (North Coast Region) will be held April 12 at Olmsted Falls High School. WHS team members are Aswin Bikkani, Alex Lathem, Alan Garber, Ameesh Shah, Apshara Ravichandran and Paavani

Reddy. Teams in Westlake's bracket include Aurora, Grand Valley, Kenston, Southeast and Rootstown high schools. WHS advisors are John and Sandy Packis. You can watch Westlake take on James F. Rhodes and Nordonnia high schools on Dec. 7. Academic Challenge airs on Saturdays at 7pm on WEWS NewsChannel 5.

Board of Education to Act on Transportation Reductions

At its Dec. 9 meeting, the Westlake Board of Education will act on recommended cuts to transportation following the failure of the ballot issue earlier this month. The recommendation is for Westlake to reduce transportation expenditures by going to state minimums for busing, meaning K-8 students living within two miles of their school will not be bused. The recommendation is for the reductions to take effect Feb. 1. If approved, families impacted by the reduced busing will be notified by mail. In January the Board will discuss and act on additional recommended reductions to staffing and programming, as well as increased kindergarten tuition and pay-to-participate fees.



Shop Online, Support WECPTA

Support the Westlake Early Childhood PTA every time you shop on Amazon. Visit the WECPTA website at <http://wecpta.org/> and click on the secure Amazon link to shop. Up to 8% of proceeds will be donated back to the WECPTA by Amazon.



Holly Lane Project Earns PBS Recognition

Amanda Caunter's third grade Pennies for Patients project at Holly Lane made a news appearance on the PBS television show NewsDepth, aired locally on WVIZ on Nov. 20. Students studied the role of citizens in communities and decided to raise money for DVDs for children at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. The students raided \$887.53 through their pennies for patients campaign. You can watch the story at www.ideastream.org/news-depth/entry/57708. There also is a lesson plan activity for teachers to use based on the project on the website.



PTA Founders Day Nominations Sought

Do you know an educator, staff member, parent or volunteer who should be recognized for their service to children? If so, nominate them for a PTA Founders Day Award. Nomination forms can be found at http://www.westlake.k12.oh.us/SiteAssets/Lists/News/NewForm/2014%20FD%20-%20Nomination%20Form_PTA%20Council.pdf. For more information email kkilbey@yahoo.com or novakmarie@hotmail.com.



College Club West Scholarship Program

College Club West, an organization of women college graduates, is offering scholarships to women whose official residence is within the counties of Cuyahoga, Medina and Lorain counties. They must be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree. The scholarships will be awarded to women 25 years of age and older based on financial need, goals and academic records. To apply visit www.collegeclubwest.org. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 14, 2014.

Dates to Celebrate

Dec. 1: Rosa Parks Day

Dec. 3: International Day for Persons with Disabilities

Dec. 4: World Wildlife Conservation Day

Dec. 10: Human Rights Day & Nobel Prize Day

Dec. 15: Bill of Rights Day

Dec. 17: Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' flight

Dec. 21: First Day of Winter

Dec. 25: Christmas

Dec. 26-Jan. 1: Kwanzaa