

Around the Schools

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



Groundbreaking success

A groundbreaking for Phase I of the Master Facilities Plan was held Aug. 29 to mark the beginning of a three-year construction project that will yield a new high school, a new middle school and a remodeled intermediate school.

Fencing has gone up around both sites and a contract awarded for temporary parking lots, construction roads and retention basins at WHS. Bid packages for the general building trades at both buildings are out for bid. Temporary lots, construction roads and retention basins for the middle school will be included in these bid packages.

The main parking lot at WHS is fenced in but will be available through the end of September. Traffic patterns and parking will shift to new temporary lots on the site following the Sept. 30 home football game.

With higher bids than expected coming in on other school construction projects around the state, Turner Construction and MKC architects to re-evaluate the Westlake project and focus on project reductions and value engineering on the front end.



WHS students Chris Tsuei and Allyson Pesta from the Class of 2014 are joined by LBMS teacher Sally Fetko, Parkside teacher Bridget McMahan and WHS teacher Nikki Miller at the groundbreaking ceremony

Images from the Groundbreaking.
 Top: WHS music teacher Jennifer Butler leads WHS students in singing the Alma Mater.
 2nd from top: Band Director Ray Walczuk leads the WHS marching band.
 2nd from bottom: WHS, LBMS and Parkside administrators and staff
 Bottom: Superintendent Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr., Board President Thomas Mays, Vice President Carol Winter, Andrea Rocco, CFO/Treasurer Mark Pepera and Business Director Dave Puffer

With sympathies

WHS secretary Judy Popelka lost her mother, Josephine Martin, 95, on May 23.

WHS Intervention specialist Brendan Zepp lost his father, Charles Zepp, on June 5. Zepp's wife, Heather, is an intervention specialist at Parkside.

Please keep the Popelka and Zepp families in your thoughts.

Stork Report

Holly Lane music teacher and Parkside 5th grade choir director Alison Gregory and husband, Don, welcomed Anna Josephine to the family on July 22 at 7:48 a.m.

Anna weighed 7 lbs, 11oz and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Congratulations to the Gregory and Holly Lane families on this latest addition.



Welcome to our new teachers:
Carol Froelich, Caitlin Jewell, Elaine Scott, Rachel White, Bridget McMahan, Brandi Killinger, Megan Haniford, Leah Burke, Kim Conley & Tricia Simon

IRS mileage rate increase for 2011

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that the standard business use mileage rate for 2011 has increased to 55.5¢ per mile effective July 1, 2011.

The new mileage rate represents an increase of 4.5¢ per mile from the Jan. 1 rate. The increased rate affects travel on or after July 1, 2011. Work-related travel between Jan. 1 and June 30 that is reimbursed at the "IRS rate" should continue to be reimbursed at the old rate of 51¢ per mile.

Lessons on climate change

PBS TeacherLine® is offering 10 free self-paced lessons for teachers to explore best practices for teaching about climate change to middle and high school students. The on-demand, video-based modules provide a resource for teachers and students. Each module addresses a particular aspect of climate change. The modules, and a primer on climate change terminology and concepts entitled 20 Questions & Answers About Climate Change, are available now in the PBS STEM Resource Center at <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/stem/professionaldevelopment/>.

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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Teaching with Historic Places

Teaching with Historic Places (TwHP) uses properties listed in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places to enliven history, social studies, geography, civics and other subjects. TwHP - <http://www.nps.gov/history/NR/twhp/> - has created a variety of products and activities to help teachers bring historic places into

the classroom. A series of classroom-ready lesson plans, created by National Park Service interpreters, preservation professionals and educators, use historic sites to explore American history. Available free on the website, the lesson collection can be browsed in several ways, including by location/

state, theme and time period.

There are five landmarks listed for Ohio. Although designed for middle school students learning history, social studies, geography and other subjects, the lessons are adaptable for upper elementary through high school.

Digital video collection for educators

Looking for free educational video clips? The enhanced Digital Video Collection is hosted by INFOhio in collaboration with Ohio Area Media Centers. The collection is available at no cost to Ohio K-12 educators.