

Around the Schools

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

MATHCOUNTS champs

A LBMS team of 8th graders captured the 1st place team award in the regional MATHCOUNTS competition at Lorain County Community College.

The team of Kartik Dhinakaran, Aswin Bikkani, Cal Craven and Ameesh Shah will move on to state competition on March 12. Calvin Pozderac also was selected to advance to the state competition as an individual.

Additional individual awards went to the following eighth graders:

- Kartik Dhinakaran, First Place
- Aswin Bikkani, Second Place
- Calvin Pozderac, Third Place
- Cal Craven, Fourth Place
- Peter Slater, Seventh Place
- Vishal Shah, Eighth Place

MATHCOUNTS is a national enrichment, club and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement. Participants advance through school, chapter and state competitions until the final 224 students are selected from 56 states and territories to advance to the national competition held in May.

Facilities update

MKC Architects has been meeting with LBMS and WHS staff to provide opportunities for questions and suggestions on the middle school construction site and building layout.

The district is working with MKC and Turner Construction on bringing schematic designs in line with the budgets before progressing to the construction documents phase.

Neighborhood meetings also will be held March 8 to update neighbors whose property borders one of the construction sites. Keep updated on the building projects on the facilities blog at <http://westlakefacilities.blogspot.com/>

First in Math

Chris Elliott, a Bassett 4th grader, is first in the nation so far this school year in an online math program, First in Math, used by 1.1 million students nationwide.

First In Math is a curriculum supplement that gives students the skills to increase their success in mathematics. Students progress at their own pace to master basic and advance mathematics skills. The program can be accessed 24/7 online. Westlake elementary students are given time during computer labs to work on the program, or during free periods. Many students, like Chris, take the extra initiative to work on the program at home as well.

This year's program ends April 30. If Chris maintains his commitment to the program, he could end up on the First in Math Hall of Fame at www.firstinmath.com/visitor/visitor-Playerhalloffame.asp

Science Olympiad finishes

The Lee Burneson Middle School Science Olympiad team took home a series of awards at competition in Mentor over the weekend.

WHS freshman Chris Stone and LBMS 8th grader Peter Slater took 7th place in the Compute This category. Christ Stone, WHS freshman Ethan Fitz and Parkside 6th grader Chris Slater took 3rd place in the Experimental Design category. Sixth grader Alex Lathem and Ethan Fitz took 3rd place in the Optics category. Christ Stone and Chris Slater took 1st place in the Road Scholar category.

The team will move on to regional competition at Lorain County Community College on March 5. The winners of the regional competition will move on to state competition.

Swim/Dive champions

The following swimmers/divers qualified for the State Meet : Nathaniel Renkel (12- diver); Sammie Sposet (11- diver); Joe Craven (12- 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke); Megan Splain (12- 100 butterfly and 400 Freestyle Relay); Heather Smith (12- 400 Freestyle Relay); Lauren Choban (11- 400 Freestyle Relay); Nora Lee (10- 400 Freestyle Relay).

Joe won the 100 butterfly, making him district champ, with a school record time of 50.54.



Joe Craven, center, won the 100 butterfly to qualify for the State Meet. See story on left.

Stork Report ...

Hilliard intervention specialist Christina Meecha and husband Michael welcomed Samuel Thomas on Sunday, Feb. 20. Samuel weighed 8lbs. 14 oz. He joins big brother Alex at home.

WHS English teacher and National Honor Society advisor Sara Latkowski and husband John welcomed Jack David on Feb. 3. Jack weighed 7 lbs, 7oz..

Congratulations!

ESPAÑOL I

The project, "En el Restaurante" is an authentic learning experience for Sra. Vakos' Level I Spanish classes. Students used the restaurant etiquette, vocabulary and appropriate Spanish phrases one would use in a Restaurant in Latin America. Research indicates that effective language instruction must provide significant levels of meaningful communication* and interactive feedback in the target language, in order for students to develop language and cultural proficiency. To view students' work, visit <http://vakos.wikispaces.com/2010-11Restaurant+Videos>

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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eTech Ohio grant opportunity

Through the eTech Ohio Commission, the state of Ohio is offering a grant opportunities to help increase the use of technology for teaching and learning.

- Podcasts for Assessment Mini-Grant – Provides teachers with professional development for using podcasts in standards-based instruction in many content areas

and for related assessments. It also will allow K-12 students to learn effective uses for technology and demonstrate 21st-century skills such as creativity, innovation, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making. About 50 Ohio teachers are expected to receive mini-

grants of \$2,000 each.

A letter of intent (Appendix B of the application) must be received by Feb. 28 and final applications must be submitted by March 14 to podcasts@etech.ohio.gov. Visit <http://www.etech.ohio.gov/educators/podcasting-for-assessment-mini-grant/>

National Merit Finalists

Fourteen WHS students were named National merit Finalists in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship program. They are Gaurav Idnany, Joseph Craven, Raymond Heimann, Abhinay Ramachandran, Daniel Meehan, Matthew Canestraro, Elizabeth Greco, Colin Graber, Rachel Braun, Lynn Orfahli, Andrew Zheng, Arunaditya Kulshreshtha, Ryan McNeilly and Katherine Beaton.