

# Around the Schools

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

## Eclub helps Kenyan students

The Lee Burneson Middle School Environmental Club (Eclub) raised \$3,000 to help cover relief food and teacher salaries for Maasai in Kenya.

LBMS 7th grade science teacher Dan Grigson and his Eclub partnered with the Cincinnati Zoo to raise funds for the African region, which was experiencing a severe drought. A lack of food and teacher salaries forced the closure of schools across Kenya. The first phase of a distribution of relief food and teacher salaries to preschools in the Magadi area enabled many school children to return to school.

A total of \$15,000 went to Kenya from LBMS, the Cincinnati Zoo, the Cincinnati Zoological Society, Angel Fund, a science class in Cincinnati and a Facebook effort.

The LBMS Eclub donated proceeds from the sale of Eclub products. Grigson spent time in Kenya last summer working with the Massai.

To learn more about the effort visit <http://www.africanconservationfund.org/content/view/125/>

## Lego champions

A team of 20 LBMS students took the top Quality Research Award of a LEGO robotics regional competition. The Westlake Math Demons competed in the 2009 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League (FLL) competition. This is the second straight year they earned the top research award, this year for their research into biodiesel fuels. The team also was recognized with a pin for "gracious professionalism" for their handling of adversity with persistence and tenacity.

Parkside Intermediate School also sponsored a team that received the top award for "Innovative Solutions." The team's research tried to solve the problem of students failing to wear bicycle helmets.

## Board of Education update

At its Jan. 4 organizational meeting, the Westlake Board of Education appointed Carol Winter as President and Timothy Sullivan as Vice President. The oath of office was administered to Andrea Rocco and new member Nate Cross.

The Board also adopted a 2010 meeting schedule, meeting the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30pm at the Administration Building, unless otherwise noted. Meeting dates: Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 9 (2nd Tuesday), Feb. 22, March 8, March 22, April 12, April 26, May 10, May 24, June 28, July 12, Aug. 23, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Dec. 13.

The Board also began discussions on placing a facilities bond issue on the May ballot. Superintendent Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr. strongly recommended the Board follow the recommendations of four professional groups, the OSFC, three community groups and now the community survey. That recommendation is a two-phased project, beginning with an \$84 million bond issue in May. The Board will make a decision on whether to place anything on the ballot at its Jan. 11 meeting.

## New headlight law

The Ohio Department of Public Safety reminds motorists of a law that took full effect Jan. 1. All vehicles upon a street or highway must have headlights on while using windshield wipers. This is a secondary traffic offense, which means vehicles cannot be stopped solely for a violation of this statute. A citation for this offense is a minor misdemeanor. Fines will vary by court district. This provision was put into place as part of House Bill 2 (The Transportation Budget), which was passed in March 2009.

## Stork Report

Dover secretary Sandy Westfall became a grandmother x2 recently when her daughter, Kyleen Bright, and her husband, Brandon, welcomed Joseph Brandon (2 pounds, 6 ounces) and Logan Winton (2 pounds, 8 ounces) on Dec. 13.

The twins remain in the NICU but are doing well.

The Westfalls are expecting their second set of twin grandsons in May when another daughter is expected to deliver.

Congratulations to the Westfalls, Bright and Dover families on these newest additions.



**Kartik Dhinakaran**

**Kartik Dhinakaran, a seventh grader at LBMS, was the top scorer in Ohio on the 2009 American Mathematics Contest 8. His score of 23 out of a possible 25 places him in the top 1% of test takers internationally. Kartik's score earned him an Award of Distinction. This is the second year in a row LBMS has a top state scorer. Last year Elizabeth Kobe scored a 24 on the exam.**

## G&W Revue 2010

The 210 Green & White Revue is coming April 16 & 17. Volunteers are needed with production, publicity, auditions, ticket sales, judging, programs, security, ushering, snacks and concessions. Email Dmr44145@aol.com to volunteer. Look for show updates at [www.westlake.k12.oh.us/greenandwhite/index.htm](http://www.westlake.k12.oh.us/greenandwhite/index.htm).

### Great Programming on WHBS

- Jan. 11 A: Music a la Mode 2004 Part I  
B: Music a la Mode 2004 Part 2
- Jan. 12 A: Music a la Mode 2004 Part 3  
B: Music a la Mode 2004 Part 4
- Jan. 13 A: JV boys basketball v. Brecksville (1/8)  
B: The Weston House special (2005)
- Jan. 14 A: JV boys basketball v. Brecksville (1/8)  
B: Financial Aid Night for seniors and parents (12/3)
- Jan. 15 A: Varsity boys basketball v. Brecksville (1/8)  
B: The Demon Zone #15 (#400 overall)
- Jan. 16 A: Varsity boys basketball v. Brecksville (1/8)  
B: The Demon Zone #15 (#400 overall)
- Jan. 17 A: Varsity boys basketball v. Brecksville (1/8)  
B: The Demon Zone #15 (#400 overall)

**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](mailto: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.**

## 529 college contributions

Employees can earn \$25 for their 529 college savings accounts when they start a new recurring payroll deduction before Jan. 31.

The \$25 bonus will be applied to their CollegeAdvantage direct account 90 days after starting the new payroll deduction and after we receive their first payroll submission. The employees

can earn a \$25 bonus for each account that they start contributing to through payroll deduction.

Your contributions to CollegeAdvantage are tax deductible!

The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority would welcome the opportunity to

you about these incentives and how they can reach their college savings goals through payroll deduction.

Send an e-mail today to [bgibbons@collegeadvantage.com](mailto:bgibbons@collegeadvantage.com) to take advantage of these special offers, discuss ACH, or to request updated program materials

**Program A begins at: 8am, Noon, 4pm, 8pm, Midnight, 4am**

**Program B begins at: 10:10am, 2:10pm, 6:10pm, 10:10pm, 2:10am, 6:10am**

**WHBS sponsor credits begin at: 7:50am, 3:50pm, 7:50pm, 11:50pm, 3:50am**