

Around the Schools

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

Gifted referrals

The Westlake City School District provides two opportunities each year for teachers and parents of students in grades K-12 to make referrals for possible gifted identification according to the criteria set forth in House Bill 282.

The referral periods take place during the months of October and February.

Packets of information and referral forms can be obtained from the main office in each building.

For this semester's testing period, referral forms need to be completed and returned to the building's main office by Feb. 18.

Questions can be directed to the building principal or to the coordinator of gifted services, Susan Forbes at 440. 250.1269.

Staff Excellence

Four Westlake Schools' staff members were honored by their peers with staff excellence awards.

Excellence in Teaching awards went to Roberta English, a guidance counselor at Hilliard and Holly lane elementary schools, and Marilyn Krock, a reading specialist at Bassett Elementary School.

Excellence in Classified Service awards were given to Tim Heiman, head custodian at Dover Elementary School, and Donna Stephenson, a preschool assistant at Hilliard Elementary School.

Colleagues and their supervisors nominate winners of the awards. Nominees must have served with the Westlake City Schools for at least four years.

L to R: Tim Heiman, Bobbi English, Donna Stephenson & Marilyn Krock



Geography Bee winners

Benjamin Sposet, a Parkside sixth grader, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee, as did LBMS eighth grader Alan Garber.

The school-level Bee, at which finalists answered oral questions on geography, was the local round in the 23rd annual National Geographic Bee. Students had to earn qualifying scores on a written test in November, then achieve a high score on a December elimination test before advancing to the finalist round.

At Parkside, the top five finalists were Maryam Khan, Justin Krantz, Ben Sposet, Logan Whinery and John Wittenberg. A double tie-breaker round between Maryam and Ben was necessary before Ben won the title. At LBMS, Tommy Bowles and Justin Jazwa rounded up the top three finalists.

Ben and Alan now move on to take a written test and attempt to earn a score qualifying them to compete in the state Bee on April 1. The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the state champions and their escorts to participate in the National Geographic Bee National Championship on May 24-25. The first place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the Society.

Tears ...

Darren Ladikos, Bassett Elementary head custodian, recently lost both his mother, Carol, and his father, Christopher. Please keep the Ladikos family in your thoughts during this most difficult time.

Stork Report

Karen Glesius, a 1st grade teacher at Dover, welcomed Katherine Faith, on Dec. 3. Katherine weighed 8lbs, 6oz and was 19 inches long. She is joined by big brother Zach and big sister Maddie at home, as well as dad, Pete.

Tracy McGinty, an OT in the district, welcomed Mallory Grace on Dec. 7. Mallory weighed 6lb, 2oz, and was 18 inches long. She joins mom and dad, Christopher, at home.

Laura Roeder, a Dover Project LINK leader, and husband, Chris, welcomed Allison Rose on Nov. 18. Allison weighed 7.2lb. and was 20 inches long.

Congratulations to the Dover, Glesius, McGinty, Roeder and LINK families on these latest additions.

Continuing Education

Ashland University has partnered with Virtual Education Software, inc. to offer graduate level continuing education courses for K-12 educators online or via CD-Rom. These interactive courses provide expert instruction at a pace that fits your schedule.

For more information visit <http://www.virtualeduc.com/e-announcements/ashland.htm>



On Jan. 5, Kalpana Beach (pictured right) broke the Westlake Girls basketball career scoring record of 1248 points. The old record was held by Julie Anthony (pictured left) who was a '94' graduate of WHS. Julie and her family were in attendance at the Brecksville game to witness the feat and met and talked with Kalpana after the game. Julie was on hand at the next game to present KP with the game ball from the record-breaking game.

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.

OhioLearns course offerings

OhioLearns, which has offered high school students online AP classes since September, has expanded its grade 9 to 12 offerings to include courses in core content areas as well as credit recovery courses. A total of 237 online courses are now available for high school students.

The OhioLearns high school

program was launched with an initial focus on AP courses through a one-time \$1 million state funding for students to take AP courses online. Fee waiver opportunities for the 40 OhioLearns AP courses for both second semester this school year and throughout 2011-2012 are still available. Students eligible

for AP courses may apply for fee waivers. The fee waiver provides free tuition for the course, but does not cover books, lab fees or the AP exam.

For details visit www.ohiolearns.org or contact Deb Segner, OhioLearns manager, at (614) 485-6737 or dsegner@oln.org.

Position Available

WHS Head Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach, 2011-12 school year. Contact Athletic Director Tony Cipollone by Feb. 4 if interested. 440.835.6354 or 440.250.1001 or cipollone@wlake.org.