

Around the Schools

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

State budget update

You may have read about the Ohio House approving a revised state budget, which is now in the hands of the Senate. The House version of the budget still leaves many serious concerns for the Westlake Schools on how we fulfill our mission of excellence. The House version results in the district losing \$4.9 million over the next two years, still well more than anticipated.

While there was improvement, the 20% cap headline can be misleading because the House only applied the cap to state basic aid. The district's request was for the cap to be placed on all state losses which would have resulted in a \$2.4 million loss. This did reduce the number of planned administrative reductions from 3 to 2, teaching reductions from 26 to 16 and classified reductions from 38 to 20. But many operational reductions still exist. Superintendent Dr. Keenan gave a presentation at the May 9 Board of Education meeting on this topic, and will provide a similar presentation at the May 23 Board meeting (5:30pm in the WHS cafeteria) explaining the budget situation more thoroughly.

The district is working to address this issue in the most balanced way while still protecting our students. Dr. Keenan will ask the Board to formally act on the reductions so the district can move forward and planning for next school year can take place.

Cool Creations

Dominic Berardi, a Parkside 6th grader, took first place in the Great Lakes Science Center Invention Convention Regional Competition for his desktop pencil clipper.

Twelve prototype inventions from Parkside were submitted to this year's Invention Convention, a program designed to inspire, encourage, reward and recognize K-8 students for using their creativity and imagination in developing new solutions to everyday problems. Dominic won a \$2,500 savings bond, will be featured on Time Warner cable TV and his invention will be included in an online vote for the best of the "Ten Coolest Creations."

Kara McNeilly and Crystal Zhao took first place in the 5th grade contest for their Sock Lock. They won a \$500 savings bond. Other student projects earning a "Superior" award and a \$50 savings bond included Rachel Kaiser's Paper Pouch, and Greg Phillips and Jackson Liang's Desk Clinger. Greg and Jackson's invention also earned a "Chairman's Choice" recognition award.

Superior performances

The WHS Symphonic Band and Concert Band each received the top rating of "Superior" for their performances at the Ohio Music Education Association State Band Contest held at Westlake High school.

The WHS Symphonic Band, directed by Ray Walczuk and shown below left, was the only band out of 23 total bands performing at the Performing Arts Center on both Friday and Saturday to receive unanimous "Superior" ratings from all judges at the state competition. Of all the Northeast Ohio groups that compete in this difficult class of "AA," the WHS Symphonic Band is the only band that received an overall top rating of "Superior" in the state competition this school year. The Concert Band, shown below, is directed by Scott Rovniak.



GCCTM

Teams of 5th and 6th graders from Parkside placed in top brackets at the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics Problem Solving Competition. 1st -place trophy winners:

- Team Pythagorean Panthers: Steve Brewer, Patrick Smith, Patrick Lee, Ryan Karpuszka

- Team Alsadrade: Alex Rujawitz, Sarah Hemphill, Jade Hawk, Audrey Lyle

- Team Problem Solvers: Sam Giusto, Maria Alamir, Holly Tomkalski, Megan Fulton

- Team PEMDAS: Nicole Korczak, Conor Miller, Emily Schordowk

2nd-place blue ribbon winners:

- Team DMSA: Duncan Engle, Michael McDiar-mid, Sanil Gosain, Adam Goyetche

- Team Fraction 4: Crystal Zhao, Miranda Li, Mad-elyn Lockshine, Kimaya Bakhle

- Team Super Math Men: Aaron Li, Kyle Kinney, Lalit Kulshreshtha, Kenny Henry

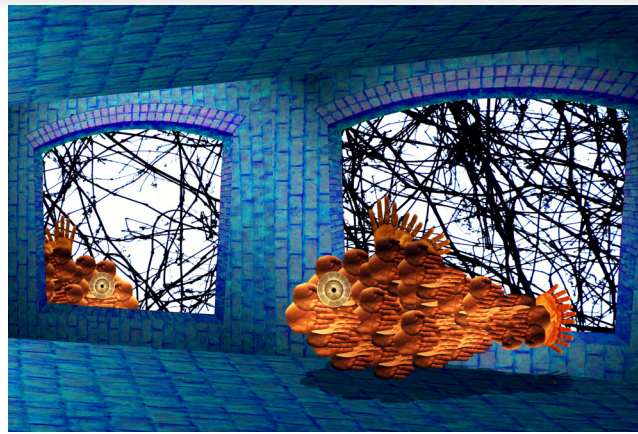
Team coaches are Col-leen Steidel and Donna Keener.

With sympathies . . .

Sue Ricci, who works in the WHS kitchen, recently lost her mother, Sue Rock.

Bus driver Melodie Urban recently lost her 53-year-old husband, Rex, suddenly.

Please keep the Ricci, Urban, WHS and Transportation families in your thoughts during this most difficult time.



WHS senior Dustin Hall won Best of Show for the Artistic Discovery Competition, 10th Congressional District. Dustin's artwork will be on display in the Capitol for one year. He and his family will be flown to Washington, D.C., in June for the ceremony. Rep. Dennis Kucinich will honor Dustin at a ceremony at Parmatown Mall on May 16. Dustin's art teacher is Kelly Atkinson. This is Westlake High School's second Best of Show winner. Last year Wan Kwok won the top award.

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.

Westlake = great city to live, learn

Westlake is among the top 10 cities in the Midwest to live and learn, according to a report from Forbes and GreatSchools.

Forbes and GreatSchools analyzed 17,589 towns and cities in the 40 states that administer standardized, statewide tests. GreatSchools also used results from the National

Assessment for Educational Progress.

You can read more about Westlake at www.greatschools.org/find-a-school/slideshows/4074-best-cities-2011-midwest.gs?page=3.

You can read more about the Clusters of

Excellence at <http://www.greatschools.org/find-a-school/4083-best-cities-2011-clusters-of-excellence.gs?page=1> as well as the main article at <http://www.greatschools.org/find-a-school/4062-best-cities-live-and-learn-2011.gs?page=1>.

Flanagan retirement reception

A retirement celebration reception for Hilliard Principal Mary Flanagan will be held Sunday, June 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Hilliard Elementary. Flanagan has been in education for 41 years – 24 of those years served at Hilliard. Please join us in wishing her well.