

# Around the Schools

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

## #2 in nation in math

Bassett 4th grader Christopher Elliott prevailed over 1.2 million students to become the second-ranked student in the nation by solving more than 136,000 math problems during the schools year in the First in Math Online Program.

The program is based on the 24 game series that helps children sharpen basic math skills, such as computational fluency, problem solving, number sense and critical thinking. Students earn electronic awards stickers for correctly solving problems of increasing difficulty.

Christopher is the number one ranked fourth-grade player in the United States. He earned a spot in the First in Math Hall of Fame. You can read more about it at <http://www.firstinmath.com/visitor/visitor-Playerhall-offame.asp>. This academic year, Westlake students cumulatively solved more than 3.6 million math problems on the First in Math site.

Robert Sun, president of Suntek International, inventor of the 24 game and First in Math Program, visited Bassett on May 18 to hand out awards. (See back page)

## Outstanding Educator

Westlake preschool intervention specialist Kim McCue was recognized by the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County with an Outstanding Educator Award.

The ESC and State Support Team for Region 3 hold an annual ceremony to recognize the special achievement of students with disabilities and peers/adults who support those students. McCue, pictured with the Cleveland Cavaliers mascot, was one of 14 Cuyahoga County teachers recognized.




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## Le Grand Concours

WHS French students earned several top awards in the 76th annual Grand Concours, a national competition sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French.

Students were evaluated on their written, oral and listening comprehension skills in French. More than 100,000 students in all 50 states competed in the 2011 event. WHS participants are students of Joy Horvath, Nicolette Miller and Elizabeth Zingales.

Le Grand Concours is a 60- minute national test designed, written, financed and disseminated by the members of the American Association of Teachers of French. Its purpose is to help stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of French and to help identify and reward achievement on the part of both students and teachers.

Congratulations to our students and teachers!

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## Green & White tops in state

WHS's student newspaper, The Green & White, earned the 1st Place Award for newspapers in the annual Ohio Scholastic Media Association contest. The Green & White is a student-run, open-forum newspaper published throughout the school year. The newspaper has been published since 1920 by WHS students.

Editor-in-Chief Alex Hribko, reporter Nick Novak and News Editor Caitlin Smith also earned honorable mentions for their work on the newspaper.

## Pet Rocks

Hilliard 3rd graders are integrating their knowledge of rocks and minerals with their study of economics as they form Pets for Profit, a pet rock production company.

Pets for Profit will manufacture, advertise and sell pet rocks to fellow students, with proceeds going to disaster relief in Japan.

Rita Shields typically uses the pet rock project to integrate studies of rock identification in geology with factors of production studies in Social Studies.

## The Stork Report

Mark Hassett, maintenance, became a grandfather when his daughter Melissa gave birth to Lillian Rose, 7 pounds, 18 inches.

WHS intervention specialist Kelly Bailey and husband James welcomed Emma Jo on May 14 at 6:57pm. Emma weighed 7lbs, 8oz. , and is 19.5 inches long.

Congratulations to the Hassett, maintenance, Bailey and WHS families on these latest additions.

## Ride Your Bike to School Day

On May 10, Parkside hosted its first Ride Your Bike to School Day with assistance from the Westlake PD and the PTA. 160 student riders, led by DARE Officer Rosie McCoy, participated. About 65 students gathered in the parking lot of the Board of Education building and were escorted by the Westlake Police Department to Parkside.



**Bassett Elementary's top 5 First in Math competitors are (left to right) David Daniel, Esther Park, Chris Elliott, Dylan Kim and Kenneth Li. Back row is Suntex International President Robert Sun and Bassett Elementary Principal Ben Hodge. Chris is the second-ranked student in the nation in the online program.**

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## 2011 National Spanish Exam results

Claudia Vagos' Level 1 LBMS Spanish students attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2011 National Spanish Examinations. Students earned a total of three gold, nine silver and seven bronze medals, as well as 16 honorable mentions.

Two LBMS students – Melissa Karpuska and Vishal

Shah – landed in the top 3% in the nation, scoring higher than 97% of the students who took the exam. They will receive gold medals. Dominic Cristiano was a top finalist, scoring in the top 5% in the nation, earning a score higher than 95% of the 32,926 students who took the exam. He also will receive a gold

medal.

The nine silver medalists scored higher than 85-94% of students who took the exam. Seven bronze medalists scored higher than 80% of exam takers.

The National Spanish Examinations are given in annually in grades 6 to 12.

## With sympathies

WHS intervention specialist Darlene Horbol' recently lost her mother, Dora Kwaczala, who passed away May 10.

Please keep the Horbol family in your thoughts during this most difficult time.