

Around the Schools

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

Red Brick

Four years ago, the WCSD and the Red Brick Center for the Arts began a partnership to see if an arts center could be developed as part of each of our missions for the community. The initial idea was for the Red Brick Center for the Arts to develop an arts center at the Red Brick school building.

Unfortunately, raising the \$3 million necessary to complete the rehabilitation of this notable building proved to be unattainable. The current economic climate has made it difficult to secure funds for a project of this size, and the likelihood of being able to do so in the near future is unlikely. At this point the school district anticipates taking the building down during the fall semester.

While the dream of saving the building will not be realized, the long-term potential for having a community arts center might still be possible. To that end, the district and The Red Brick Center for the Arts remain committed to exploring the possibilities of an arts center in Westlake.

Both groups want to leave open a potential partnership under the umbrella of the school district's Master Facilities Plan by looking at the possibility of making the high school's arts programming spaces contiguous with the Performing Arts Center.

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National Merit Semifinalists

WHS has a record 14 National Merit Semifinalists this year -- Katherine Beaton, Rachel Braun, Matthew Canestraro, Joseph Craven, Colin Graber, Elizabeth Greco, Raymond Heimann, Gaurav Idnany, Arunditya Kulshreshtha, Ryan McNeilly, Daniel Meehan, Lynn Orfahli, Abhinay Ramachandran and Andrew Zheng. Congratulations!

Master Facilities Plan updates

With passage of Phase I of the Master Facilities Plan, the Westlake Schools can move forward on a much-needed building project that will include:

- Renovating and adding space at Lee Burneson Middle School to turn it into an intermediate school for grades 5-6. Estimated completion: Winter 2013/2014.
- Building a new middle school for grades 7-8 near the existing building. Estimated completion: Winter 2012/2013.
- Rebuilding an extensive portion of Westlake High School while preserving the 2005 additions. Estimated completion: Fall 2013.

At the Westlake Schools' Information Night on Aug. 30, 2010, Superintendent Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr. provided an update on the Master Facilities Plan Phase I construction project. A PowerPoint presentation gave the community its first glance at conceptual drawings for the new middle school. You can view that PowerPoint here: [Middle School Conceptual Drawings PowerPoint](#).

For up-to-date information on the Phase I construction project, visit the Westlake Schools Master Facilities Plan blog at <http://westlake-facilities.blogspot.com/>. You'll find links to information and graphics surrounding the Phase I construction project.

Professional Performances

Both the Westlake High School Symphonic Band and String Orchestra have been accepted to perform at the 2011 Ohio Music Education Association Professional Conference in Cincinnati in late January 2011.

Director Raymond Walczuk sent professional recordings of the two groups in the spring. The OMEA selection committee made its decision on performing groups over the summer. Walczuk said it is rare for a school to have more than one ensemble selected for such a prestigious event.

Spaghetti

Help Keep A Westlake Tradition Alive – plan on attending the 18th Annual Homecoming Spaghetti Dinner on Friday September 17th sponsored by the Westlake Demons Club. Adult tickets are \$7 in advance; \$5 for all students and athletes; and \$8 at the door. You can purchase your tickets online – visit “The Demons Club Store” on the new website – www.WestlakeDemonsClub.com Questions or interested in volunteering? Contact Lisa Murthy at murthylisa@att.net

Spaghetti dinner sponsorship opportunities are available – visit “The Demons Club Store” at www.WestlakeDemonsClub.com or contact Bob Goede for sponsorship information at rgoede77@msn.com.



At the Aug. 23 Board of Education meeting, the Westlake Kiwanis presented the school district with a Sponsor Appreciation Award for its support of The Westlake Kiwanis Family Special Olympics. Photographed are (l to r) Superintendent Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr., Maureen Droba, Russ Milan, Pupil Services Director Stephanie Morgan, Mary O’Doherty, Victor Rutkoski, Kevin Walker, Kiwanis President Bonnie Smith, Joe Anthony

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The goal would be to explore designing the school in such a way that it would allow the community access to the creative arts space outside of school hours if desired. This is a concept we are exploring with other aspects of our building spaces.

Additionally, to honor the

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history of education in Westlake as exemplified by the Red Brick building, both groups will consult with the project architects to determine if portions of the design can incorporate elements of the historic qualities of the Red Brick building and potentially utilize a few key items

of the old building in the new construction. These elements may include bricks from the building used in a walkway on the new campus, along with some for community distribution, as well as the incorporation of the “Public Schools” stone finding a home at the new high school.

Stork Report

LBMS 7th grade Social Studies teacher Jessica Molenaar and husband, Seth, welcomed Finn Marin into the world on June 25. Finn came in at 7 lbs, 6 oz, and 19.5 inches long. He is joined at home by big brother Kai. Congratulations to the LBMS and Molenaar families on this latest addition.

Graduate Update

Two WHS '06 graduates who served in the inaugural Class of 2005 Cleveland Clinic Health System Science internship Program have entered medical school. Sameer Shakir graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and will begin research at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh in a pediatric plastic surgery lab that focuses on craniosynostosis. Konrad Sawicki has also enrolled in the MD/PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh. Congratulations and good luck to both!