

# Commentary

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Westlake City School District

## International Baccalaureate

All four Westlake elementary schools are energized to move forward with the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). The program is inclusive of all students and promotes academic excellence and international-mindedness through an instructional program that is engaging, relevant and challenging. IB PYP complements the district's mission of educating for excellence and the goal of ensuring our students are globally aware, competent and competitive. Throughout the year committees of teachers have met to discuss a second language for the elementary school, traveled to training ses-

sions and participated in IB World School visitations. A communication plan and professional development schedule is being created to educate our staff, students and parents. Westlake Schools will continue to involve parents in all aspects of the process as it prepares to submit its candidacy for the IB program in spring 2012. The school district looks forward to delivering an elementary educational program that continues to educate for excellence as we expand our knowledge beyond our city, state and nation to increase our understanding of who we are as learners and how we connect to the world in which we live.



## WHS seniors among top 1% nationally

Fourteen Westlake High School students were named National Merit Finalists in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship program. These high school seniors scored in the top 1% of 50,000 high scorers and have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$36 million. Pictured right are Gaurav Idnany, Joseph Craven, Raymond Heimann, Abhinay Ramachandran, Daniel Meehan, Matthew Canestraro, Elizabeth Greco, Colin Graber, Rachel Braun, Lynn Orfahli, Andrew Zheng, Arunaditya Kulshreshtha, Ryan McNeilly. Not pictured: Katherine Beaton.



WHS also has five National Merit Commended students recognized for their outstanding academic promise. They are Julie Moroney, Aroh Pandit, Erich Slimak, Emily Steffen and Jason Wissman.

More than 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools across the country participated in the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

# Scholastic Arts showcase WHS, LBMS talents

Twenty-four Lee Burneson Middle School and Westlake High School artists earned awards in the 2010 Cuyahoga County Regional Scholastic Art Competition and Exhibition, a celebration of the artistic talent of local teenagers. Awards are based on works submitted last spring.

## Gold Key awards:

- Avery Bogart, WHS freshman, for ceramics and glass “Ocean View”
- Avery Bogart for an untitled sculpture
- Alex Kantorek-Busser, WHS freshman, for mixed media “Friends”
- Annmarie Wang, LBMS eighth grader, for photography “Leaving again ...”
- Tom Behar, WHS graduate, for ceramics and glass “Ants in My Pants”
- Janey Eager, WHS graduate, for art portfolio
- Grace Galvin, WHS senior, for digital art “the Rust and Crust of Cleveland”
- Courtney McCrone, WHS graduate, for fashion “Fighting For Control” (which also earned an American Visions nomination)
- Daniel Meng, WHS senior, for ceramics and glass “KuduGiraffeElephantLion”
- Kelley Zhou, WHS senior, for painting “West Side Market”

**Kelly Zhou/  
West Side Market**



- links must be forged as old ones rust”
- Daniel Meng, WHS senior, for ceramics and glass “Ocean Home”
- Courtney McCrone for digital art “when It Rains Flowers”
- Samantha Brunner, WHS graduate, for digital art self portrait
- Renata Beyer, WHS senior, for ceramics and glass “Thorny Rose Birdhouse”

- Alex Sierputowski, WHS freshman, for an untitled painting
- Tristan Onofrey for drawing “Still Life”
- Cari Milowicki, WHS freshman, for untitled sculpture

The young artists compete for cash prizes, medals and scholarships. Students who receive Portfolio Awards and Gold Key Awards will continue to the national competition held in the spring in New York City.

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## Top of the class

WHS senior Abhinay Ramachandran earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT test, securing a nomination for the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program, which recognizes some of the nation’s most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

He earned international recognition for his work in the Radiology Internship Program through the Cleveland Clinic’s Summer High School Internship Program. His mentor, Shyam Srinivas, MD, PhD, presented their combined research findings at the American College of Nuclear Medicine’s annual meeting in January. Among his other honors, Abhinay is a National Merit Finalist and an AP Scholar with Honors.



## Silver Key awards:

- Heather Smith, WHS graduate, for digital art “New



**Grace Galvin/  
The Rust & Crust of Cleveland**



# WHS senior takes state swimming title

Westlake High School senior Joseph Craven won the 100 butterfly state championship. He previously beat his best time at the Division I swimming preliminaries with a time of 50.37 seconds.

Joseph's state championship title is the school district's first state championship since 2006, when Molly Bartkiewicz earned the state title in pole vault.

Joseph also is a National Merit finalist. He plans to attend The Ohio State University.



# WHS musicians give elite performance



**WHS String Orchestra**

The Westlake High School Symphonic Wind Ensemble and String Orchestra were both selected to perform at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Professional Conference in Cincinnati in January. Very few high school ensembles are ever chosen to perform at this prestigious event, and having two in the same year is even more of a distinction.

The process began early last spring when Raymond Walczuk, WHS instrumental music instructor, submitted recordings of these groups to the OMEA selection committee. Evaluation by this committee is done in a purposely anonymous manner, further demonstrating the performance level of these students.

Walczuk was notified in August of the unique honor of having two groups from the high school invited to perform.

**WHS Symphonic Wind Ensemble**



The Symphonic Wind Ensemble was one of eight bands performing during the three-day professional conference.

The String Orchestra was one of seven orchestras selected by the OMEA committee. This group had the added distinction of also being a demonstration group during the OMEA State Orchestra Board meeting.

# Board of Education 2011

At its Jan. 11 organizational meeting, the Westlake Board of Education appointed Thomas Mays as President and Carol Winter as Vice President. Returning Board members are Nate Cross, Andrea Rocco and Timothy Sullivan. The Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 27200 Hilliard Blvd., unless otherwise noted. Board meeting dates are as follows:

- Monday, March 07, Work Session
- Monday, March 21, Regular Meeting
- Monday, April 18, Regular Meeting
- Monday, May 09, Work Session @ Hilliard Elementary School
- Monday, May 23, Regular Meeting
- Monday, June 20, Work Session
- Thursday, June 30, Regular Meeting
- Monday, July 18, Regular Meeting
- Monday, August 15, Work Session
- Monday, August 29, Regular Meeting
- Monday, September 12, Work Session @ Bassett Elementary School
- Monday, September 26, Regular Meeting
- Monday, October 10, Work Session @ Holly Lane Elementary School
- Monday, October 24, Regular Meeting
- Monday, November 14, Work Session
- Monday, November 28, Regular Meeting
- Monday, December 12, Regular Meeting

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 City Schools  
27200 Hilliard Blvd.  
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The Westlake City School District is a member of the Westlake Chamber of Commerce.

Please forward comments to Kim Bonvissuto, communications coordinator, 27200 Hilliard Blvd., or call (440) 250-1258. Or email [bonvissuto@wlake.org](mailto:bonvissuto@wlake.org)

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