

SUPERINTENDENT'S WEEKLY WRAP-UP – MARCH 26 – APRIL 1

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Graduate Speaks - As part of our HS Postsecondary Action Planning to: *Help more students pursue postsecondary education through local college access programs, financial aid advising, scholarship and grant availability advising, career guidance, and other services*, Artasia Brown, 2010 salutatorian, spent a day with Miss Hill's classes speaking to her students about her experiences at OSU. She is currently majoring in English and Math. During her visit, she discussed the difference in being a college freshman and having been a member of the high school environment. She addressed topics such as academic work loads and recreational entertainment found around campus. Artasia has credited her abilities to achieve with the learning experiences she was exposed to at Hamilton Township High School. With the availability of advanced courses and helpful teachers, she says entering college proved to be an easy academic transition.

Carole Morbitzer Named Outstanding Volunteer - Please view press release on the Komen Columbus Website at

<http://www.komencolumbus.org/about-us/news/carole-morbitzer-named.html>

HS Student Experiments with Prezi - HS Student, Cheyenne Carter experiments with Prezi.com to complete Honors Chemistry Assignment Chapter 7: Empirical Formulas and Honors English Teen Suicide Report. Please view presentations below.

http://prezi.com/_votw6czdzwj/copy-of-chapter-7-empirical-formulas/

<http://prezi.com/ezmxguaewxib/crimes-against-humanity-teen-suicide/>

Trebuchet Project - During Physics Class, students engineered a trebuchet to demonstrate the power of gravity. Students will understand how scientists test hypotheses using quantitative data to analyze results. Students will also demonstrate how scientists convey information and findings through scientific writing (i.e. Lab reports). To begin, each student group constructed a trebuchet from a pre-fabricated kit or from their own materials and design. After construction was completed, students ran several launches and recorded the data range. Before construction, students were given time to research the concepts behind how a trebuchet works (potential motion, kinetic energy, gravity, etc). From this research, groups decided on one variable they would be changing during their experiment to increase the projectile's range. This would be their hypothesis for the experiment. After

the initial data was recorded, students modified their trebuchet by the one variable in their hypothesis (i.e. increasing the counter weight, decreasing the weight of the projectile, etc.) and performed several more range trials with the modified trebuchet. Once all the data was collected each student wrote up scientific lab reports conveying whether or not their hypothesis was supported or unsupported by their experimental data. Standards covered include; (1) formulate testable hypotheses, (2) develop and explain the appropriate procedures, controls and variables (dependent and independent) in scientific experimentation, (3) apply principles of forces and motion to mathematically analyze, describe and predict the net effects on objects or systems, (4) identify a problem or need, propose designs and choose among alternative solutions for the problem, and (5) explain why a design should be continually assessed and the ideas of the design should be tested, adapted and refined. Pictured below, Ms. Avery and Student Brandon Muller.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rangers For The Cure Team Coordinator To Be On 10TV Race For The Cure Promos - Hamilton Township Rangers for the Cure team leader, Carole Morbitzer was selected by 10TV to be included in upcoming promotional announcements for the 2011 Race for the Cure that will take place May 14th in downtown Columbus.

She was chosen by officials at Komen Columbus to be one of eight people that were represented in the promotional campaign. The interview was conducted by 10TV on-air personality, Angela An.

District Taking Steps To Generate Communication Bridge With Newest Alumni - In an effort to learn more about high school faculty, staff, and administrative strengths and weaknesses, Hamilton Local Schools will conduct it's initial Senior Exit Survey later this school year. This survey is the first step in a five-year communications and survey plan attached to Hamilton Township High School's graduating Class of 2011.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Be Good. Try Hard. Have Fun. - On Mr. Tyler's first day as Hamilton Elementary Principal, he issued a challenge to HES students and staff asking everyone to show up each day and remember to do three things: Be good, try hard, and have fun. The expectation is that all Rangers treat each other well and make good choices, give their best effort at all times, and make learning fun and engaging. Students have been rewarded with Ranger Bucks when they are able to tell Mr. Tyler the "three things." Students will continue to

be rewarded by their teachers for demonstrating that they can live up to this challenge.

Cookies For Sale - The Hamilton Elementary PTO started their Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie sale kick-off this past Tuesday with a special visit from John Fry of Teamwork Associates, the organization heading up the fundraiser. Mr. Fry displayed the multiple items students could earn by participating in the cookie sale fundraiser during student lunch periods. The elementary staff was also provided fresh-out-of-the-oven cookies that Mr. Fry made in an effort to show his appreciation for the staff and their help in getting students the information they needed for the fundraiser. On behalf of the elementary team we would like to extend our thanks to the elementary PTO, staff, students, community members, and John Fry for their efforts in making this fundraiser a success. The PTO will use proceeds from the funds collected to provide a variety of items and events for the students of Hamilton Elementary.

Gym Class... Hula Hoops... Bones... Skeletons! - Do you know what the smallest bone is in your body? Do you know what the largest bone is in your body? Did you know that you have the same amount of bones in your neck as a giraffe has? The students at Hamilton Elementary have been learning the answers to these questions and more while playing a game called Operation Ring Toss. This fun, interactive game not only includes Physical Education standards, it also reinforces Math, Science, and Health standards. Students throw hula-hoops to ring bones that are scattered on the gym floor. Younger students practice teamwork, cooperation, and strategy to be the team with the biggest pile of bones. Older students practice teamwork, cooperation, strategy, and bone recognition in order to build a completed skeleton.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

April is Autism Awareness Month

Always Have High Expectations - A recent article published through the Colorado State University quotes Temple Grandin and her ideas regarding expectations of students with autism. Her words can be applied to all people with disabilities. High expectations are so important and should start at home. The article below was published in the Denver Post. I have copied it below for your pleasure. As you read it - think about all of our students with disabilities.

FORT COLLINS — Temple Grandin — perhaps the most famous autistic person in the world — bristles when a young person with autism dwells on the disorder and not on plans for the future.

"It bothers me when a teen or someone just talks to me about their autism," Grandin said Wednesday. "Talk to me about dinosaurs . . . or your vacation. Too many kids get fixated on autism and not their career."

Grandin, 64, offered typically blunt advice during a 45-minute talk to parents, teachers and autism experts at Colorado State University.

The school is hosting a two-day symposium — "Transition and Transformation: Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders in the College Environment" — to offer clues on how colleges can help autistic students succeed.

Autistic youths — as well as those with the associated Asperger syndrome — are emerging populations on campuses throughout the country, said CSU provost Rick Miranda.

"We are seeing more of these students coming here, and that is part of our mission is to embrace this community," Miranda said.

Grandin's early school years were marked by derision from teachers and merciless teasing from her peers.

But, she said, she got help from mentors and learned to harness her unique ability as a visual thinker to gain respect and professional acceptance.

"When you are weird, you learn to sell your work," Grandin said.

National attention shined on Grandin, a CSU professor who is a leading designer of humane slaughterhouses and livestock holding pens, as autism experts began writing about her. The HBO movie "Temple Grandin" won seven Emmy awards in August.

Before a huge crowd at the Lory Student Center, Grandin showed why she remains a highly sought-after speaker.

Wearing her trademark Western-style blouse, Grandin launched into the subject of accommodating autistic people while also criticizing some families of autistic people for being too permissive.

"I am a child of the 1950s, where we were expected to do things," Grandin said. "I didn't want to go to church or wear funny clothes, but I had to because my parents expected it of me."

Many autistic children today, she said, are not asked to do their work on

time or be polite. "So many of these kids come to college, and they are taught things that should have been taught at home."

Many middle and high schools are also losing potentially good students with autism because they are not offering courses that emphasize visual thinking, she said. Because her mind is visually focused, Grandin said, she struggled to grasp algebra while she thrived in her more-visual geometry courses.

Still, the biggest obstacle for most autistic students is to learn to do well in social situations. Grandin said she learned that it was OK to cry if she was frustrated rather than lash out physically.

"It's all right for geeks to cry," she said. "A high-tech company will not fire you for crying, but they will if you throw things or hit. You can never hit."

Film on Autism April 2 - Lennox Town Center - The Autism Society and AMC Theaters have teamed up to bring the new film *Wretches & Jabberers* to 40 cities in a special limited release. This film is appearing in three cities in Ohio -- Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

Wretches & Jabberers is a groundbreaking documentary about two men with autism who embark on a global quest to change attitudes about disability, intelligence and communication. The film's stars, self-advocates Tracy Thresher, 42 and Larry Bissonette, 52, have limited speech and type to communicate. Growing up, people presumed they had intellectual disabilities and they were excluded from typical schooling. They faced lives of social isolation in institutions or adult disability centers. When, as adults, they learned to communicate by typing, it dramatically changed their lives.

Saturday, April 2

COLUMBUS at the AMC Lennox Town Center

OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY

Learn360 Essentials - Please check out the link to the Learn360 Essentials newsletter (below). It highlights Notable News, upcoming Webinars, Tip of the Month, Most Viewed Titles, and much more.

In this issue, it is noted that National Geographic has added 190 full videos and 846 video clips. There are also many educational videos from A&E,

Bio., and the History Channel. One featured event is the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, for which they have many resources to help commemorate the occasion. Also featured this time, is a Learn360 webinar: Learn the Basics. It should also be noted that, in addition to the wealth of instructional media, there are also a large number of professional development videos as well; the series featured in this issue is called "Rethink Autism".

*If you haven't logged in and used the resources within Learn360 lately, I recommend you check it out. :-)

<http://view.learn360news.com/?j=fec61674706c007f&m=fe9d15707167067876&ls=fe1b11717c63077b7d1d74&l=ff001676776005&s=fe51137773600c797c15&jb=ffcf14&ju=fe8317787c640d7572&r=0>

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Jividen Named Teacher Of The Month At The Intermediate School -

Matt Jividen is in his 9th year at Hamilton Intermediate School. Matt currently teaches 5th grade where he is also the team leader. He serves as the language arts department chair and a mentor for first-year teachers. In past school years Matt has also been a Literacy Specialist that provided imbedded professional development to the teachers in his building.

Matt's teaching strengths lie in his creative lessons and ability to engage his students. Over the years he has used media and technology to show his students that reading occurs everywhere in their lives. He then helps students apply their own knowledge of computers, movies, story telling, and previously known information to the texts and passages in class. When you combine this with Matt's ability to charge a discussion with humorous tales and experiences from his own life, students learn.

Brandon Lemley Wins Ohio Lottery Academic All Star Student Of The Month -

Brandon is a fifth grade student at Hamilton Intermediate School. Brandon excels at school. His class work, homework, and projects are always the highest quality. He is the "go to" guy in the class when you need something done. He is responsible and has great attendance. Brandon is polite and never has to be told to follow a classroom procedure. Outside of school Brandon enjoys reading, sports, and video games. He loves to play football and basketball. His favorite football position is lineman. Brandon is a wonderful young man and a true leader in his classroom and school. We look forward to see the accomplishments that he will contribute to our school and community.

The Intermediate School Raised Money For March Of Dimes - This month the Intermediate staff and students raised over \$100 for The March of

Dimes. In local communities across the country, this organization is helping moms take charge of their health, and supporting families during their time of need. The March of Dimes also acts globally: sharing best practices in prenatal health and helping improve birth outcomes where the needs are the most urgent. Next month the Intermediate school is going to be sharing Earth friendly tips on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle. The school is also going to implement a recycling program in every classroom.

Intermediate Student Artwork Honored at "Morning With the Mayor" Event - On March 25th, Mackenzie Savage and other student artists were honored by Mayor Michael Coleman for their exemplary artwork supporting "green living" and concern for the environment in Central Ohio. 5th grader Mackenzie Savage's design entry for the Mayor's "Green Spot" art contest received an Honorable Mention. Her mascot design featured a cute dog using the colors of the Green Spot website logo. Mayor Coleman was delighted and impressed with Mackenzie's design, which will join the other winning mascot designs in a featured children's book and other website features for Green Spot. Congratulations Mackenzie!

Transitioning Students To The Intermediate School - Students from the Hamilton Elementary School Cross Categorical classroom came to visit their peers in the Cross Categorical classroom at Hamilton Intermediate School. The two classes worked on social skills such as greeting others and talking in front of a group. Students enjoyed preparing a recipe together, while excising their turn taking skills and sharing. The end result was creating a snack of chocolate covered pretzels with sprinkles. Everyone had fun! Students transitioning to the Intermediate School were able to meet with classroom staff and see the classroom they will be in next year. The classrooms plan to meet on a monthly basis to work on social skills and to provide students with a more successful transition to the Intermediate School.

OFFICE OF ATHLETICS

Hamilton Township Athletic Academic Achievement Program Continues To Flourish - Our AAA program that monitors athletic academic achievement has again proven to be a successful evaluation tool for participating high school athletes, and now shows promise for the athletes at the middle school level as well. All participating high school spring sport athletes maintained academic eligibility to participate in athletics during the third grading period, and only two athletes at the middle school were ruled ineligible. While the high school athletic academic success remained consistent, our middle school showed vast improvement since instituting the program during the second grading period. A special thank you goes out to

all staff members that have taken the time to work with our students struggling academically, showing them the path to success.

Ranger Spring Sports Open With Impressive Victories - Hamilton Local spring sport programs had opening victories at the high school level in varsity baseball, JV baseball, varsity and JV softball, along with middle school wins in 8th grade baseball and softball.

Freshkorn Takes 8th Place At States - Ashley Freshkorn qualified for the Division I OATCCC State Indoor Track and Field Championships this past Saturday in both the Shot Put and Weight Throw. She began the day with an improvement to her personal best and the school record in the Weight Throw with a 33' 0" throw (10th place). Ashley finished her day with an 8th place finish in the Shot Put With a 36' 11.5" throw.

Ashley Freshkorn (Sophomore) holds the school record in both the Shot Put and Weight Throw.

Below is the link to the meet results:

<http://www.finishtiming.com/OAT-CCC/2011/index.htm>

Boys Varsity Track Opens 2011 Season As Champions With The Girls Third - Our boys HS Track team finished 1st in an eight team field while the girls HS track team took 3rd place in a field of nine teams in the Hamilton Booster Invitational. This is the highest placement for both teams in the past five years.

Ashley Freshkorn was named the Girls Field Event MVP (1st in Shot Put and Discus)

Curtis Tyler was named the Boys Running Event MVP (1st in 3200 and 4x800)

Other Event Champions Include:

Boys 4x800 Relay (Sean Marcum, Tim Marcum, Tom Maynard, & Curtis Tyler)

Girls 4x800 Relay (Samantha Rakes, Eliza Ayers, Courtney Horlocker, Christy Andrews)

Nick Rhoades (Pole Vault)

Megan McClain & Maddy Davisson (Pole Vault Tie for 1st)

Varsity Baseball Gets Win In Home Opener - The varsity baseball team won their opening day game in exciting fashion beating Hilliard Bradley, the 2010 Central District Division II Champions with all starters returning, in extra innings 4-3. Pitchers Kameron Wright and Jordan Chaney kept the Rangers in the game. Down by two runs with two outs in the bottom of the

7th inning, Nate Burton hit a double that scored Jordan Chaney and Cody Watkins to tie the score at three. In the bottom of the 8th inning, Jordan Chaney drove in Cody Hassenmier for the winning run. We also want to thank Mrs. Stevens-Brown for throwing out the first pitch.

Ranger Varsity Softball Starts Season With 10-0 Win - Hamilton

Township Varsity Lady Rangers Softball team started strong by winning their season opener against Columbus East. The Rangers benefitted from home runs by Jackie Moore, Ashley Mitchell and Haley Leslie in the 1st inning that set the tone for a 10-0 HT victory in five innings. Sierra Jacobs, Emilee Stevens and Jamie Meade combined to pitch a one hitter.

Middle School Baseball & Softball Opens With A VICTORY! - Middle

School Lady Rangers celebrated an 8-6 victory over Everts Middle School in their season opener. The Rangers were lead by 8th grader Kerstin Stevens who struck out nine Tigers throughout the game. The Rangers overcame a five-run deficit in the 6th inning scoring eight runs to take the lead and the ultimately the win. The middle school 8th grade baseball team also beat Circleville in their season opener.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Another Student Earns Award from Kroger - 8th Grader Brandon Fort was chosen as an award winner in Kroger's Black History Month writing contest. Brandon's winning poem reflected upon his thoughts of what Black History Month meant to him. It is a very heartfelt and introspective poem and a copy of it can be found on the Middle School web site. Brandon and fellow Kroger contest winner Danielle Rodriguez will be recognized and will share their winning pieces at the Board of Education Meeting on Monday, April 4. Congratulations to Brandon and Danielle!

Students Helping Students - Mrs. Susan Murray, Intervention Specialist at the Middle School, has been working with her special needs students very diligently this year. Recently, Mrs. Murray has recruited some help in helping her students. Some of the Principal's Honor Roll students have agreed to help Mrs. Murray by spending some of their Intervention Period time tutoring other students and helping them with their homework and helping them to study and work on the school work. These students have been very helpful to Mrs. Murray and have been doing a great job of assisting their peers. Once again, the caring attitude of our students shines through!

PRESCHOOL

A Special Visitor - To get the students excited about our first annual roller skating party at Unites Skates of America the only roller skating dinosaur came to the preschool. Skato was a big hit for all the students. He passed out stickers and high fives to everyone.

Roller Skating - Over three hundred preschool family members attended the roller skating party on Thursday night. United Skates of America did a fantastic job organizing this fund raising event. Grandparents, parents, siblings, and preschool students had a blast. This event will be a long-standing tradition for preschool families. Everyone left with a smile and a lasting memory of their first skating experience.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Building Operations - Mr. Morrison met with Bob Clanin of Finest Finishes to discuss using an epoxy floor finish with our elementary, intermediate and middle schools. We invested in this product at our high school and have been very satisfied with its durability.

Transportation - Our transportation department will continue to look for local drivers to join our team. If interested, please contact Mrs. Barbara Haughn at 491-8044 ext. 1238.

Food Services - Mr. Morrison completed the school district's HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point). This nearly 300 page document is required by the Child Nutrition and WOC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265) to implement a food safety program for the preparation and service of school meals.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Testing Update - Eighth grade students finished taking the EXPLORE and Student Readiness Inventory last week. These assessments align with the ACT and provide information student readiness for high school. Results will be back in three to six weeks.

The majority of first and second grade students have completed the Stanford10 reading and math assessments. These assessments will show how our students compare to similar students across the county. Second grade students have also completed the OLSAT8 to provide information for gifted identification. Results from both tests should be back in three to six weeks.

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Credit Recovery Crunch Time - The deadline for submitting credit recovery coursework was today to ensure all work is graded and students are ready for graduation. Over 40 of our seniors have taken advantage of the program this year. We are excited to be helping so many students earn their diplomas.

Grade Reports for 3rd 9 Weeks - We will be mailing out our 3rd 9 weeks' progress reports on Monday. Families can also monitor student work via the Internet whether the students are working with our computer program or our correspondence program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See what is going on this week at Hamilton Local Schools

<http://www.hamilton-local.k12.oh.us/protected/mastercalendar.aspx>