

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Jan. 20-27, 2012**

### **Webcast on Ohio's Transition to Next Generation Assessments**

**Scheduled Feb. 1** - On Wednesday, Feb. 1, ODE and PARCC Assessment consortium staff will host a joint webcast on the PARCC consortia assessment development from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Ohio has become a full member of PARCC, a consortium of states working collaboratively to develop common K-12 assessments in English and math aligned to the Common Core State Standards, anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. A webcast is technology in which you see and hear the presentation on a computer.

Participants must [register](#) for this free webcast. The webcast will be recorded and posted on the ODE website following the live session.

### **NSBA Releases Policy Guide On Dangerous Food Allergies - OSBA**

**Briefcase** - The National School Boards Association has published a policy guide, "Safe at School and Ready to Learn: A Comprehensive Policy Guide for Protecting Students with Life-threatening Food Allergies." The [58-page policy guide](#) is designed to help school leaders establish policies and practices that support the safety, well-being and academic success of students with life-threatening food allergies.

**Reward Your Favorite Teacher - OSBA Briefcase** - The Barnes & Noble My Favorite Teacher Contest asks students to write an essay, poem or thank-you letter that describes how a teacher has influenced their life. Winning teachers will be recognized at a special event at their local Barnes & Noble store, and the winner of the Barnes & Noble Teacher of the Year Award and his or her school will be honored.

Maximum awards: \$5,000 for the Teacher of the Year winner and his or her school

Eligibility: Students in grades 1st - 12th

Deadline: March 1

Contact: <http://links.ohio.school.boards.org/49937>

### **ODOT Provides Funds For Bike Routes To Schools - OSBA Briefcase**

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program provides funds for safety projects that encourage or enable children in grades K-eight, including those with disabilities, to walk or ride their bikes to school. The funds can be used for infrastructure or non-infrastructure projects in five categories: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement or evaluation.

Maximum awards: \$500,000

Eligibility: all applicants must have an Ohio Department of Transportation-approved school travel plan

Deadline: March 2

Contact: [www.dot.state.ohio.us/saferoutes](http://www.dot.state.ohio.us/saferoutes)

**Promoting Innovative Teaching - OSBA Briefcase - The**

Ecology/Environmental Teaching Award will be given to a teacher who has successfully developed and demonstrated an innovative approach in the teaching of ecology/environmental science and has carried his or her commitment to the environment into the community.

Maximum awards: \$500 of Vernier equipment

Eligibility: secondary teachers

Deadline: March 15

Contact: <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/68104>

**New Intersection To Cost \$9.5M**

By Lucas Sullivan THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Franklin County commissioners voted to allocate \$9.5 million yesterday for reconstruction of the Groveport Road and Alum Creek Drive intersection to ease traffic congestion and attract major cargo shippers to nearby Rickenbacker Airport.

The project will be paid for with state development and transportation funds and federal funds. County engineers expect it to be completed by the end of 2013.

“We expect the project to begin as soon as the weather breaks, and if we continue to have a mild winter, that could be soon,” County Engineer Dean Ringle said.

The new intersection in Obetz will feature two roundabouts, the first such design in the state, Ringle said, with a bridge connecting the east and west parts of Groveport Road.

The intersection handles 41,000 vehicles a day, including many large trucks. The new intersection will be able to handle 73,000, Ringle said.

Engineers expect that drivers will have to become acquainted with the roundabouts. But more are popping up in the area in cities such as Dublin and Gahanna, so Ringle expects there won't be an issue.

The county is desperate for more business at Rickenbacker. The airport has not been profitable since its conversion to a cargo-shipping hub in 1981. Since then, the county has given \$131.2 million to support it.

“The traffic down there is a mess, so this is absolutely necessary,” Commissioner Marilyn Brown said.

## **OFFICE THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Student Discipline** - Hamilton Schools and The Educational Council are pleased to kick off 2012 with a unique, new program for middle and high school students who have been observed harassing, intimidating or bullying classmates. The program is entitled, “L.E.A.R.N. Family Workshop;” it stands for leadership, empathy, awareness, respect and negotiation.

L.E.A.R.N. is a 3-session/9-hour family program, developed for referred students to gain insight into their hurtful behaviors, understand legal and emotional consequences of their actions, and develop skills to improve their social relationships. Parents attend with students and gain information on parenting adolescents who display aggression.

This workshop will be required for students (grades 7 - 12) and their parents who are in violation of the district's anti-bullying policies.

**Building Operations** - Hamilton Local Schools have adopted the Alert Now phone notification system to inform all district parents of closings, cancellations, unexcused absences, and any other emergency alert information concerning our district buildings or property. To utilize the Alert Now notification system, we import a call list generated from each student's primary contact phone number. At any time, if your child's primary contact number is changed please make certain their building secretary is made aware of the new contact number. Once the district's Superintendent has made the announcement, our Alert Now notification system will contact you within minutes.

If school is canceled or delayed for two (2) hours due to inclement weather the following local television and radio stations will carry the announcement:

TV Stations:

WCMH - NBC 4    WSYX - ABC 6    WBNS - 10 TV    WTTE - Fox 28

Radio Stations:

WTVN - 610 AM WCOL - 92.3 FM WNCI - 97.9 FM WCKX -107.5 FM

You can also visit our district website for school closing, delay, or emergency information.

**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.

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**District Flexes Community Service Muscle During Autism Awareness Event** - On Tuesday, January 24, Hamilton Local Schools & Hamilton Township High School held the 2nd Annual NBC 4 Autism Awareness Shootout to raise awareness of autism spectrum disorders while generating funds to be split between Autism Speaks and the Autism Society of Ohio.

This year, thanks to the generosity of students, teachers, community members, local business owners/operators, and administrators, we raised \$4,000. This total surpassed our previous record by \$1,100.

Our school district was featured on NBC 4's 6:00 & 11:00 p.m. sports segments, and one of our outstanding local business partners, Obetz Dairy Queen, received attention for their creative "Blue" dilly bar treats!

I would like to thank Mr. Payne for coordinating this event for the 2nd consecutive year and look forward to watching this program grow over the upcoming years.

Many individuals contributed to making this event a success either through planning, working the event, soliciting donations and support, or cleaning and organizing the facility. The following people should be recognized and thanked for their effort:

Preschool - Jan Strahm, Emily King, and Sheena Turner

Elementary School - Lisa Payne

Intermediate School - Susan Sewell, Angie Kirk, Jen Coalter

Middle School - Shelley Lemasters, Jason Hackett

High School - Nate Collins, Jeannie Kline, Casey Linkinhoker, Melissa Samples, Jim Vittek, Ola Blevins, and Brandi Baker

Alt. Academy - Allyson Price

Administration - Vince Payne, Wynona Smith

Donations by: Dr. Joe Mileti (Ohio Orthopaedic Center), eSchoolView (our website company), TEAMWORKS / Otis Spunkmeyer (Inflatables), Obetz Dairy Queen, Janice Crabtree Photography, Old Man's Cave Chalets, BeckmanXMO (Blue Jackets Tickets), Rave Cinemas, Roosters, Raising Cane's, Stardust Lanes - Grove City, Red Robin, Stella & Dot Jewelry courtesy of Lisa Payne, and a Thirty-One Gifts Bag courtesy of Jen Coalter.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**TEAM Up For Diabetes** - Navigating the teen years can be challenging. Teens with diabetes have the added challenge of learning to take charge of their diabetes management. In order to assist our students at Hamilton Township High School, Mrs. Brickey has established a group that will meet once or twice a month to give our students with diabetes the opportunity to communicate and share with other students any similar challenges. Our hope is that, having the support of peers will help them find encouragement to take control of their diabetes, be more responsible for their self-care, and have greater success in the classroom. The meetings will take place during the school day but scheduled so that the students will not miss any academic class time. Materials from the National Institutes of Health geared toward teens with diabetes will be used as a springboard for conversation.

**Ohio's Outstanding Teacher of American History** - As the Historian for the Ohio State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Nancy Valles Congratulates Mr. Robert Lanthorn, Hamilton Township High School Social Studies Teacher, for being chosen as Ohio's Outstanding Teacher of American History.

Should Mr. Lanthorn be chosen as the National winner, he would be invited to the 121st Continental Congress in June 2012 and receive a check for \$3000.00. HTHS Congratulates Mr. Robert Lanthorn.

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Capital University Student Teacher Joins HMS** - My name is Jonathan Figel and I am a senior and student teacher from Capital University. I am originally from Steubenville, Ohio, which is located in eastern Ohio. My major at Capital is Integrated Social Studies Education and I will be graduating this coming May. While attending Capital, I participated in varsity football for four years and also took part in multiple intramural athletic associations. I hope to one day teach at the high school level and become a football and basketball coach.

**Students Want a Vacation** - 8th grade students practiced their persuasive skills by creating travel brochures. Students each researched a location and put their artistic talents and writing skills to work, some creating the brochure on the computer while others created it by hand. Students then wrote persuasive letters to their parents convincing them with both logical and emotional appeal that this was the perfect vacation for their family. From Cedar Point to Belize to Paris, parents may have a hard time saying no to these convincing destination brochures.

**Principal's Honor Roll Students Rewarded** - On Thursday during lunch periods, the Principal's Honor Roll students celebrated their success in the classroom with a pizza party. Over 50 students were honored for having a GPA of 3.8 or higher and everyone had a great time. The Honor Roll students (3.0 GPA and higher) will also be receiving a reward of a movie to celebrate their accomplishments! Congratulations to all of the students on both Honor Rolls!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Congratulations Mrs. Holowicki** - Mrs. Kristen Holowicki has been selected as the Ohio Lottery Region 5 Teacher of the Month after being nominated by a fellow staff member. Congratulations Mrs. Holowicki on being rewarded for your excellence in the classroom and your dedication to the students of Hamilton Local Schools.

**Second Grading Period Honor Assemblies Are A Success** - For the second grading period, 364 certificates were handed out to honor students for their success. Many of their family members were in attendance Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to see these students receive their awards for Principal's Honor Roll, Honor Roll, and Perfect Attendance. Congratulations to all students who were honored and keep up the excellent work!

**6th Graders Learn About Freedoms** - Students in Mrs. Thompson's 6th grade Social Studies classes are learning about the evolution of civil rights and the struggles it entailed. Students watched a video clip called "Stand Up for Freedom" which discussed the beginning of slavery, the difficulties of the civil war and finally about the oppression of rights against African Americans. Students took the civil rights issue further by reading an autobiography called, "Through My Eyes" by Ruby Bridges. It enlightened students to see the differences between northern and southern states and how people were treated. This book also gave students the ability to see how a brave few could bring change. Some students even participated in a classroom debate over integration vs. segregation.

**ACTs Are Two Weeks Away** - 6th grade students are preparing to take the ACT February 11th by staying after school for mini study sessions for science, math, and reading review. Students are also utilizing study materials from the ACT. Good luck to all of our students who have accepted this amazing challenge!

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Online Public Access Catalog** - Since returning from holiday break, 2nd and 3rd grade students have been learning how to use the district Library Media Center's new online public access catalog. Our new web-based computer system allows the students to do traditional searches for materials, use a "picture" search, and also highlights new materials and each school's "TOP TEN Favorite Books of the Day." The students have enjoyed learning this new system and since it is web-based, they have also been practicing their user names and passwords so they can log-in from home. Not only can they use the catalog from home, but they can now see their accounts, what materials they have checked out, and when their materials are due back to school. Hopefully access to this new system will increase the return of items in a timely manner. A parent letter was distributed providing information on the new system, directions on its use, and each individual student's user name and password.

**Symmetry Lesson** - Students in Mrs. Case's 2nd Grade class took a long walk around the school this week, on the lookout for lines of symmetry. Students spotted items they thought may have lines of symmetry, then used a long string to test their theory. Classmates had the chance to discuss whether or not the items were symmetrical, explain their reasoning to each other, and even show how the item may have multiple lines of symmetry. Their student teacher, Miss Walther was right there to help, and out of the 12 items tested, only four were found to be perfectly symmetrical!

**HES Partners with the South High Library** - Through out the year Kindergarten will be participating in a story time program provided by the South High Branch of the Columbus Library. One Monday each month our Kindergarten classes enjoy a visit from Keith Hanson the South High Library director. During his visits he shares multiple stories and songs.

The most recent focused on a general food theme, including the song *Groovin' Peanut Butter & Jelly* from *Hip-Hop Alphabop 2* and the books *The Cow Loves Cookies* by Karma Wilson and *Worms for Lunch?* by Leonid Gore.

The visit finished with the topic of never giving up. Students sang, *Cool Itsy Bitsy Spider* from *Hip-Hop Alphabop 2* and then read Stuck. Stuck is a silly, never give up kind of book about a boy who tries to get his kite out of a tree in an interesting way.

To follow up with the story Stuck, students wrote about what they would do if their kite got stuck in a tree.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**It's a "Beary" Special Friday At the Preschool** - Students brought their favorite stuffed animal to school on Friday, January 27, 2012 for a special reading event. The kids enjoyed a scavenger hunt, read to their animal friend, and had an extended story time in the library.

**Winter Homecoming Week** - Preschool students will participate in this all district event.

Monday, January 30, 2012 - Class Color Day-Students are to wear the color of their classroom.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012 - Pajama Day

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 - Dress as your favorite hero! Super Heroes are fine!

**100th Day of School!**

Thursday, February 2, 2012 - Dress like what you want to be when you grow up.

Friday, February 3, 2012 - Green and Gold Day- Tie Dye T-Shirts!

**Webinar "Race to the Top"** - In December of 2011, Ohio was one of nine states awarded the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. ODE is very excited about this wonderful opportunity to focus deeply on birth to kindergarten entry early learning and development. On Wednesday, January 25, 2012 Mrs. Strahm and Dr. Witten participated in this overview of Ohio's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. The webcasts provided schools district an overview of the grant and the ways that it will benefit the early childhood community. The next five years there will be many exciting changes for Early Childhood Education.

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Testing Instrument for Early Entrance to Kindergarten and Whole-grade Acceleration** - The Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) is currently the only acceleration assessment process approved by ODE for evaluating candidates for early entrance to kindergarten and whole-grade acceleration

for students in kindergarten through Grade 8. Districts have found the tool useful for providing guidance to local evaluation committees who determine accelerated placement for students.

Districts may continue to use the Second Edition until May 2012, when the IAS Third Edition will be released. District gifted on-site reviews for school year 2011-2012 will request verification of use of the IAS or plans to implement use by May 2012. [Go here for more information](#) about acceleration.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Districts Consult with HLSD** - In the spirit of collaboration, Liza Dixon, Instructional Support Teacher, is helping over 70 Upper Arlington district teachers understand benchmarking and progress monitoring as part of a response to intervention process. The UA director of intervention, who is familiar with Liza's work and the progress we have made in the district, requested our assistance.

Also, this week Dr. Witten and Mrs. Lester, Intermediate Student Support Teacher, met with HTHS's former high school principal Chris Briggs, who is now a regional executive director with Columbus Public Schools. He hopes that CPS can learn from Hamilton's improvement success and use of short cycle assessments to accelerate progress.

**OTELA** - Guidance Counselors have begun testing of students who are learning English as a second language. Ohio requires that these students' English language skills be assessed every year until they are proficient.

## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Bump Up Party** - Mrs. Murray is having a Bump Up Party on Friday. The Middle School special education department started a new strategy this year to intervene for students who are still behind in reading. Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Beeman are very pleased with the progress their students are making. They use a data collection tool called AimsWeb, which monitors the students reading fluency. Mrs. Murray has seen so much progress in four of her students that she has "bumped them up" an entire grade level. Hence the Bump Up Party name. She will be providing doughnuts for those students on Friday morning. The data is showing that the reading lab at the Middle School is making a difference for the students. Both the students and the teachers are excited to see the progress.

## DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

**Digital Learning Day to be celebrated on Feb. 1** - [Digital Learning Day](#) is a culminating event in a year-round national awareness campaign to improve teaching and learning for all children. Digital learning is any instructional practice that effectively uses technology to strengthen the student learning experience. Digital learning encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practice, including using online and formative assessment, increasing focus and quality of teaching resources and time, online content and courses, applications of technology in the classroom and school building, and adaptive software for students with special needs. Ohio is observing Digital Learning Month for the entire month of February.

Check the [ODE website often](#), beginning Feb. 1, for daily tips on using technology, links to digital resources and features on some Ohio school districts that are having success in the digital world.

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

**Hamilton Student-Athletes Excel Academically** - Hamilton Township student-athletes have demonstrated their commitment to academics during the second nine-week grading period. Fifty-two percent of all high school student-athletes earned a 3.00 or better GPA during the past grading period while 31% of the student-athletes are carrying a GPA of 3.5 or better. Twenty student-athletes received a GPA ranging from a 4.00 to an outstanding 4.364.

Congratulations to all of our student-athletes for making a commitment to academic excellence. The in-season high school athletic teams did not lose one student-athlete due to missing eligibility requirements.

**Hamilton Township High School Cheerleaders** - The High School cheerleaders proudly display their new uniforms during a recent boys basketball game. A big thank you goes out to the Hamilton Local Boosters and The Hamilton Local School District for their generous contribution to the Cheerleading program.

**Ranger Wrestlers Cap Strong Performance With Championship** - The Hamilton Township HS varsity wrestling team had a championship week of competition by beating Circleville to move to a 1 - 0 record in the MSL Buckeye Division, and then went on to take home the championship trophy from the Grandview 12 Team Tournament. The following wrestlers were top placers:

Clayton Ray - 1st, Trace Koehl - 1st, Brian Ray - 1st, Micky Crum - 1st, Alonzo Jewell - 1st, Kyle Maupin - 2nd, Logan Carter - 3rd, Alex Perez - 4th, Jacob Morgan - 4th, Jay Hatfield - 5th, and Dylan Napier - 5th

**Indoor Track - Ohio State Qualifier Week 1** - The first of four OATCCC qualifying meets was held at The Ohio State University French Field House on Saturday, January 21st. Thirty Rangers participated in the meet.

The highlight of the day was the boys 4x800m relay team breaking the previous school record by over 10 seconds by running 9:00.27 with the team of Austin Niemann (So), Curtis Tyler (Jr), Kenny Smith (So) and Tom Maynard (Sr).

Lorenzo Bridges improved upon his own 60m hurdles school record by running 9.15 seconds, while Megan McClain increased her school record in the pole vault by clearing the bar at nine feet!

Brandon Blevins (Fr), Jacob Ralson (Fr), Josh Sweet (Fr), Jon Stewart (Jr), Kenny Smith (So), Ben Sipe (Fr), Kylie Scase (So), Dahnijsha Branham (So), Lisa Vann (Sr) and Sierra Green (Fr) all ran in their first high school track meet.

**Varsity Girls Basketball Beat Falcons** - The Varsity Girls Basketball team celebrated a victory against Franklin Heights. The Rangers were lead in scoring by Josie Kasperzack with 11 points. Twelve additional Rangers contributed to the scoring effort. Maya Ford scored eight points, Ariona Brown had seven, and Michaela Blankenship finished with six. The Rangers improved to 5-11.

**Ranger JV & Freshmen Hoops Teams Defeat AC** - Blu Molinar led all JV scorers with 11 points playing a very good all around game to beat Amanda Clearcreek 41 - 22. Noah Williams had 20 rebounds with Tyuan Taylor contributing six points and Dashawn Nelms chipping in with five points. The freshmen also beat Amanda Clearcreek by a score of 44 - 42. Tyuan Taylor scored the winning basket at the buzzer.

**Eighth Grade Lady Rangers Win** - The 8th grade Lady Rangers came from behind to defeat Bloom Carroll by a score of 24-22. Brittany Haughn's lone basket, a three-pointer with five seconds to go, was the difference. The Lady Rangers clamped down on defense to start the second half by allowing two free throws as the only 3rd quarter points for the Bulldogs while scoring six points to tie the score going into the final quarter. Autumn Blosser led all scorers with 10 points while Lauren Longbrake added eight points, and Haughn had three. The win brings the Lady Rangers' record to 6-7.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

[Get all of this week's events listed here](#)