

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Feb. 21-28, 2014

Hamilton Elementary Teacher Selected By Ohio Education Association For Master Teacher Project - Another Hamilton Local faculty member has been selected to utilize their talents on a national level. After a thorough selection process, Hamilton Elementary third-grade language arts teacher, [Jennifer Martinez](#) was one of two teachers chosen by the [Ohio Education Association \(OEA\)](#) to represent the state in the [National Education Association \(NEA\)](#) Master Teacher Project's 96 national participants. To put that in perspective, the OEA has over 121,000 members and NEA is the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing more than three million members, which puts her in the top 99.999999% of her peers for this project. We are proud that Mrs. Martinez is representing herself, her family, our district, and HLEA in this nation-reaching project. She's another outstanding example of the excellent educators we have in our district.

[View a recent article](#) published in the February 2014 issue of *Ohio Schools Magazine* that explains more about the project.

Hamilton Preschool Identified to Receive Additional Funds - Ohio's General Assembly increased the state's investment in high-quality early learning preschool services when the governor signed into law House Bill 59, which allocated an additional \$12 million to the early childhood education program for Fiscal Year 2015. During the 2014-2015 academic year, an additional 2,940 children will receive high-quality preschool through a competitive application process. The Hamilton Local School District Preschool Program has been identified as a potential eligible recipient of these funds.

Snow Days Debate Continues after Legislation Stalls; Conference Committee Members Named - The House and Senate tried but failed to reach a compromise Wednesday on granting additional calamity days to schools, with the House rejecting Senate floor amendments that tried to split the difference between versions approved by the full House and the Senate Education Committee. House Republicans cited confusion over the bill as a reason for the delay but expressed confidence they can resolve the dispute in the next couple weeks.

Neither the House nor the Senate is scheduled to be back for full voting sessions until Wednesday, March 12 -- eight days before Spring begins.

House and Senate leaders named members of a conference committee to resolve the debate: Reps. Gerald Stebelton (R-Lancaster), Andrew Brenner (R-Powell) and Heather Bishoff (D-Blacklick) and Sens. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) and Tom Sawyer (D-Akron).

The Senate committee revised the House proposal Wednesday morning, adopting a substitute version of HB416 (Burkley-Hill) that simply granted an additional four snow days, rather than the two snow days and two teacher professional development days called for in the House-passed version. The substitute bill also required schools to use their five pre-scheduled contingency days before being able to take the additional calamity days.

The substitute bill also incorporated Gardner's proposal in SB273 to allow graduating seniors to skip any makeup days scheduled for after graduation ceremonies occur, among other changes.

Hours later on the floor, senators pulled back a bit, changing the bill to give three calamity days and one professional development day, and requiring schools to use four of their contingency days before being able to use the additional calamity days. That version of HB416 passed the Senate unanimously.

Gov. John Kasich asked lawmakers a month ago to move legislation granting additional calamity days for this academic year, citing the extraordinary winter weather.

Provided by Focus Education, a service of Hannah News service.

House Bill [HB14](#) SCHOOL RECORDS ABUSED NEGLECTED DEPENDENT CHILD Signed by Governor - With respect to a school district's withholding or transfer to another district or school of the records of a child who is alleged or adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child.

Senate Bill [\(SB21\)](#) THIRD-GRADE READING GUARANTEE Signed by Governor - To revise the requirements for reading teachers under the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee.

Senate Bill [\(SB26\)](#) HEAD INJURIES-YOUTH SPORTS Signed by Governor - To correct a cross reference with regard to concussions and head injuries in athletic activities organized by youth sports organizations and to declare an emergency.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

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

Classrooms/Special Occasions - Thanks to Mrs. Karen Schutte and Miss Leah DiSabato for allowing me to participate in the Read Across America Celebration on Friday. This event is one of the highlights of my school year! I read the Caldecott Medal book *This Is Not My Hat*, written and illustrated by Jon Klassen. This book is a morality tale featuring wonderful art and a very important story.

Food Services - March is National Nutrition Month – Must See: Kids Teach the First Lady (Michelle Obama) and Will Ferrell About Being Healthy [LET'S MOVE!](#) [“FOCUS GROUP”](#)

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

GT Preparation Becomes Competitive – To align with the Winter Olympic theme, HTHS is holding the Science OGT Games. During Advisory period each sophomore will have a chance to get extra tutoring in the following OGT categories: Earth Science, Physical Science, Life Science, and Scientific Ways of Knowing. Following these tutoring sessions, students will participate in the Science Games where they will represent their Advisory class competing against other Advisory classes and classmates.

Oh, The Places You Can Go - 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**, The HS Guidance Department has created a wall to advertise and publicize the places our students go after graduating from Hamilton Township High School. Each student pictured below has a portrait and designated college to attend. Colleges that current seniors are planning to attend and pursue range from local smaller colleges located in Columbus including Columbus State, Capital, Ohio Dominican, to larger colleges such as The Ohio State University to Bowling Green, Northern Kentucky, Louisville, Marshall and even to the University of Southern California.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Geometric Town - 8th graders put their creative minds together by creating a Geometric Town focusing on Angle and Line Relationships that we have recently discussed in class. To begin, the group had to come up with a name for their town that they would base their roads and building names after. The town had to consist of 3 parallel roads and 2 other roads that intersected and crossed through at least 2 of the parallel roads. Once the roads were created, the angles that were formed were now the focus. The groups then had to place buildings in all the different types of angle relationships that we have discussed: corresponding, alternate interior, alternate exterior, vertical, same side interior, complementary, supplementary and adjacent. As a result of the project students had productive conversations about math topics as they relate to the world around us, and creative maps that showed mastery of the standards!

Future Focus Friday - On Friday, February 21, the Middle School participated in the district-wide Future Focus Friday. In order to help the students begin to prepare for their future education and careers, the staff worked with their Intervention classes to decorate the classroom doors in the Future Focus Friday theme. As you can see from the pictures below and [here](#), they went above and beyond and created wonderful scenes of the future!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Hamilton Intermediate Welcomes New Assistant Principal - Hamilton Intermediate School would like to welcome Mrs. Kelly Buxton as its new assistant principal. Mrs. Buxton graduated from Hamilton in 1988. She earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from OSU and taught math for eight years at Hamilton Middle School. She was the assistant principal at the high school for four years and the assistant principal at the middle school for five and a half years. Mrs. Buxton says she is very excited to be at the intermediate school, that it has been a great experience so far, and that she is settling in and enjoying getting to know the staff and students.

College Focus - The Intermediate staff has been focusing on the importance of getting our students excited about and interested in going to college. A practice ACT exam was administered to sixth graders who scored advanced in at least one subject on the OAA in fifth grade. They were invited to participate in the Northwestern University Midwestern Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) by taking the ACT in February alongside the high school students. During the week

of Future Focus Friday, different facts and statistics were read over the announcements each morning to get students thinking about going to college. Teachers and students have been discussing college interests and answering questions students might have. Staff members wore college apparel from the college they attended in order to generate discussion in the classroom about the importance of attending college.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student of the Month – Kindergarten student Izabella Hamilton was selected as the HES Student of the Month for February. Izabella’s teacher, Mrs. Moore, had this to say: “Izabella Hamilton truly is an all-star student and deserves the award! She is always a hard working student, a great listener, and enjoys helping others whenever she can. Izabella always has a smile on her face, is friendly to everyone, and is a wonderful role model!” Congratulations to Izabella and her family.

Staff Members of the Month – 3rd Grade intervention specialist Kierston Watts (left) was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month, and recess aide Jennifer Kyre (right) was selected as the Classified Staff Member of the Month for February. The anonymous staff members who nominated Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Kyre had this to say: “Kierston is an excellent face for dedication and commitment. She is always taking the extra time to help her students learn. She spends her free time outside of work trying to find new and fun ways for her students to learn in a fun, positive way. She is always going above and beyond for her students. She is very dedicated to helping students learn and achieve their goals. She always has a positive attitude and is always thinking of new ideas.” “Jennifer helps in our building in many ways. She works in classrooms as well as taking care of recess duty. She teaches the students games to play during indoor recess that she has found during her time outside of work. Aside from what she does at our building, she also helps a lot at the high school. She is very involved with the high school band and drama department.” Congratulations to Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Kyre.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Dental Health Week - Learning all about how to keep you teeth and gums healthy has been the name of the game in Mrs. King’s class this week. The students are learning about ways that they can work to keep their mouths in good shape. In the center, “Happy Tooth, Sad Tooth” students sorted food according to which foods were good for their teeth and which were not. Another fun center that the kids loved was a flossing center. The students were given a big Lego, representing teeth and play dough to represent food. They put the play dough between the teeth and used floss to get the play dough out. This really got the students excited about flossing and they more fully understood the concept.

The class completed their own “Tooth Journal”, in which they drew and wrote about what they use to take care of their teeth and what foods they like to eat that are good for their mouth. Mrs. King’s class also read two magazines, “Scholastic Weekly Reader” and “Clifford: The Big Red Dog Monthly Magazine”, both talking about dental health and everything they need to know about healthy teeth. Mrs. King’s class loved learning about dental health and how important it is to visit the dentist and take care of their pearly whites.

Dental Visit - Staff members from Dr. Mitzi Hines office spoke with the preschoolers on this past week about the proper way to brush your teeth, the importance of flossing, and good foods to eat. The students also watched a brief video and were given new toothbrushes and coloring books. Thanks to Izabella Hamilton's mom, Jessica for organizing this visit!

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Successful Strategies For Test Taking - As the staff helps prepare students for the Ohio Graduation Tests coming up March 10-14, 2014, here are a few strategies for success. Please post this somewhere to help remind students leading up to the tests.

- Make a To Do List Every day
- Keep Your Work With You
- Don't be Afraid to Say No (to family or friends if you have something important to do for school)
- Find Your Productive Time
- Create a Dedicated Study Time
- Budget Your Time
- Don't get Sidetracked
- Get a Good Night's Sleep
- Review Your Notes Every Day
- Motivation is the Key to Success
- Stay Focused
- Eliminate Distractions (TV, Video Games, Music, Other People, Cell Phone)
- Be Prepared
- Be Active and Participate
- Use Your Textbook
- Keep Organized
- Be Consistent – Spend some time Every Day on Every Class
- Don't Give Up

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Late Arrival March 5 – Wednesday March 5 will be a 2-hour late arrival for students. Staff members will use the two hours for professional development and collaborative work on curriculum instruction, and assessment.

Research Partnership – Hamilton Preschool will partner with the Concepts and Learning lab at the Ohio State University on a research project. The purpose of the research is to investigate how children learn and reason about mathematics. The research involves giving students short learning activities. With parent permission, children may participate in up to five 15-25 minute sessions and will play various "games" with numbers on a laptop computer or with hands-on material. The activities are designed to be engaging for the children, and not stressful in any way. Hamilton teachers will have access to the information learned from the study and the interventions that prove successful.

Conversing with Babies is Beneficial – Research shows that how much and how well parents talk with babies and toddlers tunes their brains to build language and vocabulary skills. Experts ask adults to forgo baby talk. Longer, more complex sentences are better. The idea is to connect words with meaning (from The Columbus Dispatch, 2/16/14: “Conversing with baby can reap rewards” by Lauran Neergaard.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

HT Wrestler State Bound - HTHS Junior Clayton Ray placed 3rd at the Division I District Tournament at Hilliard Darby High School over the past weekend. This performance earned Clayton a trip to OHSAA Individual State Tournament Thursday, February 27th-Saturday, March 1st at the Schottenstein Center on OSU's campus. This is his first year Hamilton Township has wrestled in the OHSAA Division I classification making Clayton the Rangers first Division I State Qualifier. Congratulations on a great season and good luck at the state tournament.

Lauren Longbrake Recognized as Athlete of the Week by *The Dispatch* - Rangers Junior Girls' Basketball player Lauren Longbrake was recognized by *The Columbus Dispatch* for her dominating performance in the Rangers' OHSAA sectional round game victory versus Whetstone in which she totaled 21 points and 24 rebounds. Congratulations to Lauren for this recognition. To access the article, click [here](#).

Indoor Track Update - Austin Niemann broke the all-time school record in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:58.17. His time was 4 seconds faster than the previous record holder and state placer Ron Shelton.

Aaliyah Solis, A'riel Harris, Zadei Edwards, and Shanell Hayes broke the girls indoor school record in the 4x200 meter relay. Their time places them on the provisional state qualifier list and is in the top 20 times in Division I. Congratulations on your efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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