

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: May 1-8, 2015

“Thank You” Teachers - On, Tuesday, May 5, 2015, we proudly recognized National Teacher Appreciation Day. On behalf of our district's administrative team and Board of Education, I thanked each and every one of our teachers for the constant display of relentless dedication and commitment to the children we are entrusted to educate. I know that each teacher works daily to provide critical tools for our students to become the best they can possibly be, and for that I say, “Thank You!”

Our teachers dedicate many hours to their craft that reach well beyond the school day, and take time from their families to get work completed and plan meaningful lessons. It is through this effort that we have become one of Ohio's most improved school districts. Again, “thank you” for your commitment to our mission and total focus on the children of our district. We would not be where we are today without the efforts of our excellent teaching staff.

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) provides tools for student achievement liaisons - OSBA student achievement liaisons serve as links between their districts and OSBA's Student Achievement Leadership Team (SALT). Hamilton Board of Education member, Mrs. Pam Hallum is serving her 5th consecutive year as the Board's Student Achievement Liaison.

Fellow school board members appoint liaisons during the January organizational meeting. As Student Achievement Liaison, Mrs. Hallum's duties include sharing ways to improve and focus on student achievement with their board colleagues; establishing and maintaining relationships with academic booster groups; sending information on successful district programs to SALT; nominating programs for the OSBA Student Achievement Fair; and taking part in SALT activities, as well as encouraging others to do so.

Ohio House considers the use of a barricade device on a school doors - HB114 SCHOOL DOOR-BARRICADE (ROEGNER K, BISHOFF H) To require the Board of Building Standards to adopt rules for the use of a barricade device on a school door in an emergency situation and to prohibit the State Fire Code from prohibiting the use of the device in such a situation.

William Barna, president of Bolo Stick LLC and former law enforcement officer, police academy instructor and substitute teacher, testified as an interested party, suggesting revisions to the bill.

First, he said there is no benefit to the provision, which requires that barricade devices be visible from the exterior of the door.

"The ability of the barricade device to be viewed from the exterior of the door provides no relevant security value to the occupants of the room," he said. "Instead, it provides notice to an unwanted intruder that there are indeed staff and students inside."

He said that requiring such a "cosmetic specification" places the students at additional risk and restricts the variety of devices that could be made available to schools to strengthen security.

Additionally, Barna disagreed with the requirement that barricade devices not be attached to the doors.

"Provided that the door mount does not impede regular egress during periods of normal operation, it allows for the immediate lockdown of a classroom against an armed assailant." He argued that time is of the essence in an armed shooter situation and any door barricade devices should be able to be activated without delay or special training.

Chairman Rep. Maag asked if a permanent fixture would interfere with a door's fire safety rating.

Barna said the barricade devices require only two stainless steel screws to be put into the doors and do not affect the fire rating.

The committee approved two amendments. The first includes institutions of higher education in the bill.

Gerberry said he thought adding in institutions of higher education without any consultation or testimony from higher education officials such as the Inter-University Council was a very big step.

Rep. Kunze clarified that HB114 and the amendment were permissive and not mandatory, which satisfied Gerberry.

The second approved amendment allows barricade devices to be used during active shooter drills.

Source: Hannah News Service

Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of Ralph U. Roof - Ralph U. Roof, age 97, of Columbus, passed away April 20, 2015 at Scioto Community. Mr. Roof served as a member of the Hamilton Local School Board of Education from 1962-65 and served as Board President during 1965. In 2007, Ralph served as the Grand Marshall of the Hamilton Meadows Parade.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

National Honor Society - This year, the National Honor Society of Hamilton Township High School served the community & school through many activities including three Red Cross Blood Drives, the Beightler Armory Holiday Party, a potluck for teacher appreciation, the superintendent's state of the schools luncheon, graduation, a tutoring program for students in the district, & ticket-taking and face painting at basketball and football games. Each year NHS creates a new group service project and works on the project throughout the school year. This year they organized a dodge ball tournament to raise money for Children's Hospital Oncology and Hospice Centers in memory of member Alicia Jarvis. Through the dodge ball tournament, National Honor Society raised over \$1,300.

On the evening of May 4, the following 24 students were inducted into National Honor Society for excelling in the areas of leadership, scholarship, character, and service: Emily Caplinger, Rebekah Carter, Cody Converse, Tyler Darst, William Davidson, Kaylee Fannin, Ian Foreman, Jacob Harper, Kathryn Hicks, Morgan Hinkle, Cameron Isaac, Tyler Jude, Sarah King, Jacob Long, Anthony Morbitzer,

Christopher Nelson, Kasiey Novotni, Kimberly Rose, Briann Settles, Joelle Smith, William Streets, Alicia Sweet, Hannah Watkins, & Kyle Whitt. Congratulations to the newest members of the National Honor Society of Hamilton Township High School.

4H and The Ohio State University: ChickQuest (A Classroom Journey through the Life Cycle of Chickens) - Hamilton Township High School has teamed up with David Blankenship, Program Coordinator at Ohio Soybean Council/Ohio Soybean Association and Ohio State to bring chickens to the classroom. When the opportunity arose to participate in a program that provided not only fertilized chicken eggs, but state-of-the-art incubating equipment and supporting lab supplies to the District, Christine Harger, HTHS cross-categorical teacher jumped at the chance to attend the ChickQuest seminar through the Ohio State University and 4H. The representatives of The Ohio State University Extension that led the seminar firmly believe students should be prepared to take part in the scientific process of making observations, recording data, and making predictions. This belief aligns not only with a process that is continually reinforced through all science courses in the District, but also is outlined in the New Ohio Science Standards, Model Curriculum, and the Academic Content Standards-Extended for Science (a set of Science Standards designed to set a benchmark for what students with special needs should strive to learn at various times in their education). The goal is to teach steps of the scientific process through the incubation process with chicken eggs in the classroom through a real-world experience.

With the help of Mr. Morbitzer, the experience in the cross-curricular room is being shared with all members of the High School by having a live feed of the incubator streamed to a monitor in the lunchroom. The feed is also broadcast into all classrooms via the SmartBoard. As most chicken eggs hatch after a very specific amount of time in the incubator, the un-hatched baby chickens are expected to begin to become noticeably active around the date of May 12th.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dodge Ball Champs - This week, our middle school held its annual dodge ball tournament. Students that were present for all PARCC testing days were able to participate in the dodge ball tournament as a reward. The 8th grade team defeated the 7th grade team in the best of three game series taking home the coveted dodge ball trophy.

Lottery Nominations Announced - For the month of April, 7th grader, Kayleigh McClintock and Cross-categorical/special education teacher, Joel Miller were chosen as the school's selections for the Ohio Lottery's monthly Academic All-Star and Teacher of the Month programs. We hope both are chosen as the lottery's monthly regional award winners.

Songs of Joy Resound - Wednesday night, more than 150 middle school students came together to present the Spring Choir Concert. The 7th grade girls began the concert, followed by the 7th and 8th grade men, and then the 8th grade women. To conclude the concert, all three choirs joined, along with alumni of the Hamilton Middle School choir who rejoined the mass choir on stage to sing the two closers to the concert, a tradition that began more than 25 years ago by Mrs. Carracciolo. Selections from the evening included music from the Renaissance period, several popular songs from the 50's, 70's and many on the

radio currently. The students involved are to be praised for their positive contribution to a successful and entertaining evening!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Students Use Technology To Share Their Appreciation For Their Teachers -

During Teacher Appreciation Week, in technology class, H.I.S. students sent messages to a teacher of their choice (ranging from Intermediate School teachers all the way down to teachers in Preschool) in the district, expressing their gratitude for all that they do. Students got to choose to either write a letter or create wordle to share with that teacher via Google Apps. Below are a few of the kind words students said.

Mrs. Eckenrode - The students who will have you as their teacher next year are going to be so lucky. - 5th grade student

Mrs. Enright is funny, pretty, kind, amazing, smart, and can draw really well. She is the best art teacher I ever had. She is my favorite teacher. - 6th grade student

Mr. Cryder - You are my favorite teacher. You have taught me a lot of cool things. In the future I hope my friend and sister get you as their teacher. - 4th grade student

Intermediate Artists Shine At District Art Show - H.I.S. was proud to send 30 of its best student artists to the [5th Annual 2015 Hamilton Local Art Show](#) this year! Art featured by the Intermediate building included (but was not limited to) Lego Self-Portraits, Silhouette Landscapes, Clay Monsters, African Masks, and Recycled Art Sculptures. Mrs. Enright was very proud of all her students this year; it is always hard to select the 30 students for the Art Show due to there being so much talent and creativity amongst the 4th -6th graders. Mrs. Enright would like to thank her students, Mr. Meade, Mr. Payne, and all of the other art teachers for helping to make this year's Art Show a great success! The following Intermediate students had artwork displayed in the 2015 Art Show: Rory Chapman, McKenzie Blevins, Mackenzie Bowman, Karriana Gray, Mahkeal Souem-King, Aiden Dunno, Ashley Kefauver, Madison Moore, Madison Thomas, Maize Smith, Jordan Marcum, Makayla Wellman, Summer Liston, Caleigh Vance, Devon Wall, Rebecca Moore, Megan Addington, Elizabeth Caron, Sydnie Frey, Leanna Nutt, Jacob Chapman, Erica Bush, Jaeda Lowe, Olivia Blaine, Rylea Rood, Joey Rose, Quentin Shaw, Jourdan Woltz, Chelsea Hensley, and Endia Berger. 6th grader Erica Bush also won the "People's Choice" award with the most votes from the Intermediate School. Congratulations and thank you to all of our talented Intermediate Artists and their families!

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Teacher-on-the-Town – Several HES staff members met over 800 students and parents at United Skates of America on Refugee road. “Teacher-on-the-Town” events are a way for teachers and families to get to know each other and the events have grown considerably over the last four years. The HES group had the rink for a private skate for three hours and was given a discounted rate because of the number of people who came. A great time was had by all and Mr. Tyler and Dr. Conley would like to thank all the teachers and PTO members who volunteered their time and Mrs. Heidlebaugh for organizing the event.

Planet Aide Earth Day Continued... - You may recall the article two weeks ago that discussed HES students participating in Earth Day activities. This week the winners were chosen for the Planet Aid Earth Day Art Contest!

Faith Moore, Mrs. Herrel's class
Gabby Ross, Mrs. Gibson's class
Jolyna Long, Mrs. Denuette's class
Olivia Bright, Mrs. Forrest's class
Brianna Amerine, Mrs. Starkey's class

These students were given their choice of a Solar Robot or a \$25 Gift Card to Toys R Us. Also, each winning student's class received a pizza party! The winning artwork can be viewed on the Planet Aid website:

<http://www.planetaid.org/artcontest/regional-contests/southern-ohio>

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Preschool Artists - Students from the Preschool were involved in the district art show this past week. Their art pieces varied in color, media, size and dimension. From collage to paint, the students learned different art skills and techniques to create their beautiful artworks. Each preschool teacher selected two pieces to be displayed. Students were proud of their work and they demonstrated increased self-concept and confidence in art.

Family Day at the Zoo - All Preschool families are invited to attend our sixth annual family day at the zoo on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. Families will meet our preschool staff promptly at 10:00 a.m. Ticket orders are due to your child's teacher by Tuesday, May 12, 2015. There will be no Preschool classes on Wednesday, May 13.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

MS Boys' and Girls' Track and Field Teams Win MSL Championships - On Thursday, May 8th, Hamilton Township hosted the MS MSL Buckeye Division Track and Field Championship meet. The Boys' and Girls' team both came away with their respective championships!

Teagan Littrell broke the school record in the discus and Chance Bradley broke the record in the 200m dash. The 4x400m relay team of Christine Shaw, Tierra Christman, Alyssa Perry and Chloe Davis also broke the school record.

Austin Young took first place in the shot put, while Conner Howell and Drysten Crallie dominated the long jump. The 4x400m team of Crallie, Blake Newsome, Howell and Isaiah Murphy also took the top spot. Gavin Flaherty and Payton Sandine also added to the points with great performances in the hurdles and 800m run.

The girls' team had great performances by D'ayra Hurley in the 100m and 200m as well as Bethany Robinson in the hurdles. The 4x100m team of Long, Robinson, Worboy, and Thomas took first and Riley Thomas added to the points with a great performance in pole vault.

Congratulations to the athletes, parents, and to Coaches Jessica Wills, Chris Trisler, Ryan Woods and Max Hoyt on this accomplishment.

Softball and Baseball Learn OHSAA Tournament Draws - The Varsity Baseball and Softball teams learned their tournament draws on Sunday, May 3rd. The Baseball team will host Canal Winchester on Monday, May 11th at 5:00pm. The Softball team will travel to River Valley on Thursday, May 14th at 5:30pm. Best of luck to both of these teams as they enter post-season tournament action.

Boys' Tennis Earns MSL Honors - The Boys' Tennis team competed Saturday at the MSL Tournament at Teays Valley High School. The Rangers finished 3rd with a 6-4 league record. The team's current record is 13-4 on the season. The following Rangers received MSL honors:

1st Team:

Zach Harmon - Senior

Austin Mylar - Senior

2nd Team:

Joe Watson - Freshman

Honorable Mention:

Shamael Chaudhary - Senior

Erick Juarez - Senior

Boys' and Girls' Track and Field Teams Finish 4th at Hamilton Township's Central Ohio All-Star Meet - The boys and girls track teams both placed 4th out of 16 teams at the Central Ohio All-Star Track & Field Invitational on Friday at Hamilton Township.

Event winners:

Aaron Johnson: Shot Put and Discus

Zadei Edwards: 300 Hurdles, 4x100, 4x200

Shanell Hayes: 4x100 and 4x200

Aaliyah Solis: 4x100 and 4x200

McKenzie Long: 4x100 and 4x200

For full meet results, click [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[See what's happening in our district this week!](#)

Remember to ["Like" us on Facebook](#) & ["Follow" us on Twitter](#).