

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Nov. 1-8, 2013

Community Re-elects Board Members - On Tuesday, our community went to the polls to vote for several different issues and political offices, including our Hamilton Local School District Board of Education. I want to take a moment to thank all five of the community members who took the time to show their interest in our district by campaigning for this public office. By campaigning, they stepped up to show how passionate they are when it comes to providing an excellent education to the children of our community.

To Mrs. Wilcox, Mr. Adams, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Schutte and Mr. Obert, on behalf of Hamilton Local Schools, I thank you for taking such a strong interest in our daily mission to educate and do what is in the best interest of every child in our district.

Congratulations are in order for Mr. Wilson, Mr. Schutte and Mr. Obert on being re-elected by the citizens of our district to serve another four-year term beginning January 2014. I am thankful for the ever-present confidence and support our community provides to our Board members and District employees, which allows us to continue our growth academically and financially.

House Education Committee Update -

HB193 - HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS (Brenner A) To revise current high school diploma requirements including state-administered assessments.
SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED

Provisions include the following:

- Clarifies the new graduation requirements apply to students entering ninth grade after July 1, 2014.
- Requires five end-of-course examinations.
- Maintains the option for districts to choose to administer other assessments such as Advanced Placement, SAT II subject, or ACT end-of-course examinations instead of state assessments.
- Establishes multiple ways in which students can demonstrate college- and career-readiness necessary to earn a diploma.
- Establishes two endorsements for diplomas.
- Requires the State board of Education to hold not less than three public hearings prior to adoption of any proposed academic content standards.

HB8 REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED - SCHOOL SAFETY LAWS (Roegner K) To revise the school safety laws.

The House Education Committee Wednesday night reported out HB8 (Roegner) which revises school safety laws, providing for the possible arming of teachers or other school staff as a first line of defense against possible shooters entering school buildings following incidents at Chardon and Sandy Hook.

The committee accepted an amendment from Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) which requires the attorney general to establish a model curriculum to train employees and to make it available to the schools.

HB215 REPORTED OUT - SCHOOL SAFETY (DeVitis A) To authorize a board of education or governing authority of a school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer

who is a current or retired law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event.

HB296 - EPINEPHRINE AUTOINJECTORS (Johnson T) To permit public schools to procure epinephrine autoinjectors in accordance with prescribed procedures and to exempt them from licensing requirements related to the possession of epinephrine autoinjectors.

Senate Education Committee Update

SB123 - INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (Sawyer T) To terminate interdistrict open enrollment on that date with the possibility of renewal following the General Assembly's examination of the study's findings.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Maintenance - In preparation for the upcoming winter weather, salt supplies have been ordered and received. The district works with multiple vendors to secure road salt, brine and calcium chloride for use on our sidewalks, roadways and entry points.

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

Health and Safety - Final security updates to our Preschool, Education Center, Middle and Intermediate Schools were completed earlier this month. These features allow our office staff to review all individuals entering our facilities. This provides additional safety for our students and staff. Our high school and elementary schools were completed in September.

Food Services - Mr. Morrison met with Mary Anne Hillerich to discuss current lunch/breakfast counts, DASL submissions and Meals Plus software. Our cafeterias are very efficient, cost effective and provide very nutritious meals. Our food service program has been recognized as a "benchmark district" which identifies the top 5% of schools regarding efficiency and effectiveness.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

District's Fall Newsletter Hits Mailboxes Across District - [Click here to read it.](#)

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Employee of the Month: Kathy Brickey - *"Mrs. Brickey is more than just a school nurse, she is a district wide nurse and counselor to many students. Students trust and respect her. I recommend Kathy for staff member of the month."* - HS Teacher

"Kathy Brickey has excellent communication with teachers and staff about students and their health issues. She is also helpful with teachers regarding any health issues they may have. She checks in with students and staff as needed to make sure they are okay. I think she does a great job working between schools." - HS Teacher

"I recommend Mrs. Brickey for Staff Member of the Month. She has excellent communication skills and is stretched between numerous buildings and sees hundreds of students. Not sure how she does it." - HS Teacher

"Is it possible for Kathy Brickey to receive staff member of the month? She communicates well with all staff members and genuinely cares about all the students and staff members that she sees." - HS Teacher

Mrs. Brickey stated, "Thank you so much to the high school faculty and staff for this very unexpected honor! Because I split my time between the high school and middle school and am on-call for the other district buildings, I never considered the possibility of receiving this recognition. My goals as a school nurse are to be supportive of the students and staff in order to help maximize each students' potential for learning and to help the district to maintain compliance with state law regarding health and medical issues in the educational setting."

"A typical day for me is not really typical at all. My planned schedule consists of mornings at the high school and afternoons at the middle school, although it rarely plays out that way. Aside from tending to the immediate medical needs of students and sometimes staff, my responsibilities include vision screenings, immunization record review, parent meetings, staff training, and medication management, just to name a few." - Mrs. Brickey

Thank you again for this honor. I consider it a privilege to work with such a wonderful group of people!" - Mrs. Brickey

HTHS Support Staff Member of the Month: Lance Fulton - *"Lance has transformed the waste of time that was study hall to a structured guided study course that keeps students working toward improving their academic performance in all classes. Organized and aware, he conscientiously monitors and guides his students throughout each period. Lance deserves lots of credit for making guided study worthwhile and for helping students do better." - HS Staff*

"Mr. Fulton for HTHS Staff Member of the Month. What he has done with Guided Study is remarkable. It's very beneficial for our students." - HS Teacher

"Lance Fulton should be considered as our next staff member of the month. He has little experience in education however his approach with HS students is outstanding. Nice job, Lance." - HS Teacher

"I recommend Mr. Fulton as our next support staff member of the month. Study hall has been converted into a guided study room, which all students need. He communicates well with all HS staff and is a great team player." - HS Teacher

"As a first year aide, Mr. Fulton has stepped up and has exceeded our expectations in the guided study classroom. He runs an organized classroom, has high expectations for his students, and is flexible when it comes to working with the administration and staff at the high school. Mr. Fulton has my vote for HTHS Staff Member of the Month." - HS Administration

Fulton stated, "I would like to thank the fine staff of HTHS for selecting me as Support Staff Member of the Month. My experience working for HTHS has been a pleasure because of you. It is a privilege to work for a school that has worked so hard for me during my years as student at HTHS. Being in charge of the Guided Study program is a welcome challenge and is evolving into a great place for students to accomplish their academic goals. Communicating with the staff each period is becoming a routine as Guided Study is a great tool for teachers as well as students. I make sure that each

student is organized and prepared to work before they enter my room. Guided Study has grown to become a positive learning environment for students and I hope to enhance that environment as the school year moves along. Thanks again for the recognition, and Go Rangers!"

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wheelin' and Dealin' at the Middle School - The Personal Finance classes at the middle school (8th grade for HS credit) and high school, utilize the SIFMA Foundation's Stock Market Game (SMG) not only to help them academically, but so they can have fun while learning these personal finance investing concepts. Using a virtual \$100,000 to create an investment portfolio, students are more able to comprehend such seemingly foreign concepts while playing a "game" that uses real-world publicly-traded stocks and real-time fluctuating stock prices. The SMG allows 600,000 students internationally to learn how to grow their money by investing it in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds; and helps students do better in core classes like math, language arts, social studies, technology, and economics. Students who participate in the SMG are also learning 21st Century Life and Career-Readiness Skills like setting measurable goals, managing their time, successfully working in groups, and being responsible for their part in a project. This year, the SMG online portal has been upgraded to include mobile access. As you can see, students love using their mobile devices in class (and at home) to keep an eye on their stock portfolio.

Here is what some of the current MS Personal Finance students had to say about the program.

"My opinion of the SMG is that it is entertaining." - Blake McKay.

"I think the SMG was confusing in the beginning, but now it's fun and okay." - Savannah Miller

"I think the SMG is a good way to get you thinking. It teaches you good techniques of when to buy and sell." - Caley Mason.

"I think it is fun and interesting." - Sierra Edgers.

"It's kinda cool I guess, but I need money, help me out." - Brett Schultz.

"I think the SMG is a really good way to learn about stocks. I gives you an understanding of what you'd do if you had a job investing in stocks and what you could do in the future." - Brianna Lopez.

Language Arts News - Language Arts has been wrapping up their Historical Fiction unit by completing the book My Brother Sam is Dead. The students were very passionate about the ending of the story and showed it with their ability to extract important details and derive meaning from those details. Moving forward, language arts students will begin their short story unit and descriptive writing with lessons inspired by Halloween. Our students have been reading Edgar Allen Poe and practicing their inferring and predictive skills as well as writing descriptive paragraphs about candy! In spite of the excess sugar, our students have already shown extraordinary growth and development!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Pajama Party! - Last month's charity was the pajama program. Fourth grade and fifth grade collected seven pairs of pajamas and sixth grade collected a total of ten pairs. We collected a total of 24 pairs of pajamas plus \$382.82 in donations! Thank you to everyone who donated! (Summary article written by Emma Pekar)

Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling - The students in Ms. Long's fifth grade science class studied the importance of conserving our natural resources through reducing, reusing and recycling. Students worked hard at home to come up with ways to reuse and recycle materials that would normally end up in the trash. The students came up with some great new products including an insulated refrigerator and an art isle. Great job Ms. Long's fifth grade students!

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student of the Month – 2nd Grade student, Keylhan Brown was selected as the HES Student of the Month for October. Keylhan's teacher, Ms. Lust, had this to say: "Keylhan Brown is an excellent role model in my classroom. Keylhan displays all of the characteristics that you would want in a student; he is kind, compassionate, hard working, and polite. Keylhan goes above and beyond in his academics. For example, instead of writing ten sentences using his spelling words he created an elaborate story complete with dialogue and a beautiful illustration. Keylhan is an asset in my classroom and I cannot wait to see what he will achieve".

Staff Members of the Month – Intervention Specialist Belinda Seagraves (left) was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month, and Custodian Shari Stewart (right) was selected as the Classified Staff Member of the Month for October. The anonymous staff members who nominated Mrs. Seagraves and Mrs. Stewart had this to say: "Belinda dedicates a tremendous amount of time and effort to our students. Belinda always goes the extra mile to help our students succeed. It's a privilege to work with her." "Shari has been a wonderful addition to our building. Our classrooms always look great and she does the little touches that she is not required to do."

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Colby's Class Update - The holiday season is always a special time of the year. The Halloween Parade is the kick off to the two months of festive activities for the Preschool Families! In Mrs. Colby's class the students are learning a new song called *Albuquerque the Turkey*. Students had a creative family project to complete for the front showcase. The students were given undressed turkeys to take home to decorate however they would like. These turkeys will be displayed in the front showcase. Mrs. Colby and Miss Brickey have many more surprise in store their students!

We Make a Difference Week! A new themed week for the Preschool to help kick off our Scholastic Book Fair week and Parent Teachers conferences. This week was all about learning about how important community helpers are.

Monday, November 4 - "We are Bright" Wear your favorite neon color!

Tuesday, November 5 - "We all COUNT! Wear a shirt with a number on it!

Wednesday, November 6 - "We work as a team" Wear your favorite team clothing!

Thursday, November 7 - "We are all Stars" Dress like a movie star!

Friday, November 8 - "We are RANGERS" Wear your school colors!

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Veterans Day Observance – Each district building observes Veteran’s Day. Veteran’s Day honors America’s veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve for the common good, and it provides students opportunity to examine the meaning of civic ideals. Ohio law - revised code 3313.602(E) – requires that each school devote at least one hour or one standard class period on or around Veteran’s Day, November 11, to an observance that conveys the meaning and significance of the day.

OGT – The fall administration of the Ohio Graduation Test is complete. Tests have been returned for scoring. Results will be available to the district online December 16.

Late Arrival – Wednesday, November 13 will be a 2-hour late arrival day for students. Teaching staff will use the time for collaborative work on curriculum, assessment, and instruction.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

MSL Champion Rangers Football Players and Coach Earn Mid-State League Honors - The MSL Football season awards were handed out this week. The Rangers, who were MSL Buckeye Co-Champions with Circleville, received high praise from the coaches in the Buckeye Division. Listed below are those who received honors:

Championship Coach - Nathan Hillerich

1st Team

Micky Crum, Senior - Lineman of the Year
Lorenzo Bridges, Senior
Aaron Williams, Junior
Tyaun Taylor, Junior
Dylan Napier, Senior

2nd Team

Ben Swauger, Senior
Dylan Hawthorne, Junior
Deric Phouthavong, Junior
Houston Palmer, Junior

Honorable Mention

Michael Wellman, Senior
Xavier Harris, Junior
Logan Jones, Senior

Congratulations again to all of the Rangers players and coaches for their first MSL championship in football since 2002 and third overall in school history!