



# CONNECTION

JANUARY 8, 2009

*“Education is not the answer to the question. Education is the means to the answer to all questions.”* — William Allin

## DISTRICT NEWS

- The **deadline for student acceleration referrals** for the 2009-10 school year in the

West Clermont School District is approaching. In order to be eligible for early entrance to kindergarten, subject acceleration, whole grade acceleration, or early graduation from high school, the referral form must be submitted by April 1, 2009. For more information, please contact your building principal or the acceleration policy coordinator at 943-6709.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- Glen Este High School is hosting the **State Thespian Conference on Jan. 10** from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. There will be almost 300 students representing 13 area high schools here to participate in workshops and performances. It is a great honor to be chosen to host this event.
- Glen Este High School **Thespian Troupe #6512 won 2 out of the 5 national awards** this fall for their philanthropy – Trick or Treat so Kids can Eat – a national effort by Thespians to help fill area food banks before the holiday season.

### GEHS won 1st in the Nation for:

- 1) **The 2008 Abundant Harvest Award** for greatest one year increase in total food collection increasing their volume by 1,010.67%
- 2) **The 2008 Abundant Harvest Award** for greatest one year increase in total food collection by increasing their pounds of donation by 3,032 pounds.

The Thespians would like to especially thank the local community and neighborhoods for their generous giving.

- **Glen Este High School just completed their annual can drive/fund-raiser for the Batavia YWCA.** The proceeds help Clermont county residents and the residents of the Battered Women’s Shelter. This year first period classrooms, as well as small schools, competed. Students could bring in cans or money to help. They outdid themselves this year by raising approximately 3,000 cans and \$3,500. The School for Scientific Studies won the small school competition. The top 6 classrooms were Foundations 1 Bell 3, Foundations 1 Bell 1, **Mr. Reveal, Mr. Lynch, and Ms. D. Keegan and Mrs. Taktak.** In all, 47 classrooms participated.

Glen Este High  
School will host  
**State Thespian  
Conference**

Amelia High  
School will host a  
**Hoxworth Blood  
Drive** on Jan. 9

DISTRICT NEWS

- Glen Este High School students **Allen Burger, Monica Fenner, Kevin Mo, Kari Lang, Joey Richard and Ashley Arnold** were honored by the American Legion Post 72 for their performance on the Americanism Test. The difficult test covers a range of topics concerning the American government system, as well as specific questions about Ohio and the federal government. Each student received a cash prize for his or her efforts.
- **Jeff Click**, girls basketball coach at Glen Este High School, is listed in the Hooplins Basketball Newsletter, December edition, in the top 200 coaches in the State of Ohio based on the number of wins for the teams he has coached over the past 12 years. At the beginning of the year, Jeff had a career record of 171-89, for a .658 winning percentage.



Jeff Click

This year's girls team is currently 9-0 and ranked fifth in the City in Division 1. They have a game Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. against the number 3 team and league rival Winton Woods at Winton Woods. Tickets will be available at the gate for anyone interested in going to the game.

- Amelia High School will be holding a **Hoxworth Blood drive on Jan. 9**. It is sponsored by the school student council. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Jan. 28.

- The **Amelia High School Key Club adopted a needy West Clermont pre-schooler** at Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary School. His father is chronically ill, so his mother, who has no car, is the sole provider for the family. At Thanksgiving, they purchased a complete Thanksgiving dinner for the family in addition to staple food items. At Christmas, they wanted to play Santa Claus. The big gift was a new bike and bike helmet. The bike is designed to grow with the student until he is 7 or 8. Santa also brought him a bean bag chair and a stocking full of candy and little toys like Matchbox cars and Silly Putty. The family also received a complete Christmas dinner and additional staple food items. Each year Key Club hosts the Student v. Faculty Basketball Game, which provides us with the funds for projects like these.



From left to right: Cody Dalton, Kristen Mauch, Jill Fronk, Joey Weisman, Deanna Perry.

- Glen Este High School will compete against Turpin in **wrestling Jan. 9** at 1 p.m., and **boys varsity basketball** will play at William Henry Harrison High School at 7:30 p.m.
- Amelia High School will compete at Fairfield High School in **wrestling at 5 p.m.** on Jan. 9, and the **varsity basketball team** will host Turpin at 7:30 p.m.
- Amelia High School will hold a **Parent Financial Aid Night for parents of seniors on Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m.** in the AHS PAC. Questions regarding the FAFSA and financial aid will be covered. Featured guest speaker is **Todd Kelley, CCPS**, of Summit Financial Group. AHS Guidance Counselors will also be in attendance. Following the presentation, there will be a time for questions and answers. If you have any questions regarding this event, call Pat Lutz at 947-7417.



Glen Este Middle School student council members (from left) Dana Jones, Mallory Price, Katelyn Everhardt, Cindy Leazer, Maddie Landon discuss their purchasing options at bigg's.



The Jingle Bell Bash D.J. teaches middle school students the dance moves.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS**

- Student Council members from Glen Este Middle School **went shopping at bigg's to help needy students.** Eleven Glen Este Middle School students received holiday gifts, and 40 games were purchased for Children's Hospital from more than \$1,000 that was raised in the middle school during the "Winter Wishes" campaign.
- **Glen Este Middle School students enjoyed a "Jingle Bell Bash"** before leaving for Christmas break. The bash is a reward sponsored by the fundraising company Kathryn Beich, which features dancing to music provided by a D.J. and various games. The PTO popped popcorn for the kids who celebrated an end to the fall fundraiser. The students raised over \$12,000 for the PTO by selling cookie dough throughout the community. The students who attended the bash sold six tubs of dough or more. The "Bash" lasted an hour and a half on the last day before break Dec. 19. The students who didn't sell the six tubs were treated to "A Christmas Story" and received popcorn by the PTO as part of the school celebration for the positive end to the fundraiser.
- Sixth grade students from Amelia Middle School in **Ms. Clark's extension class used household items to design and create a car** that would protect a passenger (a raw egg) from being damaged in a head-on crash. The passenger (the egg) was placed in a sealable plastic bag and into the car immediately before the test. The test device was a bicycle inner tube stretched between two table legs, one inch above floor level and was placed ten feet from a brick wall. The car had to make contact with the wall to qualify. Winners of the contest were Mason Hancock and Sean Stewart.
- Ms. Barb Clark's eighth grade class at Amelia Middle School has been awarded a **\$100 grant from Sylvan Learning Center** to help fund the "Can" demonium project. The students were presented with the check on Jan. 8. Sylvan Learning Center said that competition can be healthy. Competition that teaches students and impacts the community in a positive way is even better. Amelia Middle School and Glen Este Middle School students are competing in a truly "can" demonium project. They are collecting canned goods in their school, working with local architects to design a Cincinnati-themed structure using these cans, and competing for the bragging rights in the district. Completed projects will be displayed and judged at Eastgate Mall later in the year. At the conclusion of the project, all canned goods will be given to the local food bank. Students must complete all aspects of this project from planning and organization to budget constraints to marketing and community donations. This project is a wonderful example of taking a lesson outside the four walls of a local school and into the community.



Amelia Middle School student Cameron Vaske gets ready to launch his car.

- Students in **Ms. Nicole Kinney's class** at Glen Este Middle School enjoyed a speaker before Christmas break that opened a new world to them in science. Students in all four of Kinney's eighth grade science classes learned about the rock cycle, the three types of plate boundaries as well as the geological land features seen at each. They also learned about the connections between the rock cycle and plate tectonics from a local Geologist. **Dr. A.M. Hunt from the University of Cincinnati** brought in rock samples for the students to observe from all over the United States. Some of the samples the students were able to observe were over one million years old! Manipulatives were also available for the students to see how the different land features are created at each boundary. It was a great opportunity for the students, who seemed to really enjoy the guest speaker learning experience as well.



Dr. Hunt prepares an experiment during her presentation.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Members of the fifth grade chorus during the performance in December.



McKenzie Shepherd warms up her stacking technique while competitor Noah Noffsinger looks on.

- Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary School fifth graders **performed their Christmas concert** for their fellow students on Dec. 16. A large selection of holiday tunes were sung to the delight of the student body.
- Holly Hill Elementary students had the opportunity to strut their stuff with cups in December. **A "stacking" tournament** was held. Stacking is a new game that features tons of hand-eye coordination work where the players must stack and un-stack a number of plastic cups to see who can do it the fastest and with the most precision.
- Holly Hill Elementary School will be hosting therapy dogs for their literacy program beginning on Jan 13. **Steven Inkrot and his dogs, Duffy and Gunny**, will take turns every week so that the children can read to the dog. Loretta Jackson, Holly Hill librarian, is in charge of the program.
- In all, **111 pairs of mittens/gloves, 18 scarfs and 65 hats** were collected by the Willowville Elementary Student Council to donate to the Clermont County YWCA this year. Students in the school donated the cold weather gear, which surpassed last year's donations by 22 items.



Karen Venetian prompts students with humor and encouragement to ponder some of the factors that make up the production process.



Students smile while arriving to school with a staff serenade.

- A guest speaker from the Cincinnati Museum Center visited Holly Hill recently to discuss the four factors of production. **Karen Venetian** spoke with the students, engaging them to think critically about the process of production, including issues such as human resources, natural resources and labor.
- The staff at Willowville Elementary School treated their students to a little holiday cheer. Lining up in the cold, wet weather on Dec. 19, the **staff sang Christmas carols** to the students as they were dropped off for school by parents or buses.
- While attending an indoor Powwow, Amelia Elementary fourth grade student **Cameron Williams** decided to draw pictures and sell them to raise money for U.S. soldiers. She raised \$38 which she donated to the local VFW/American Legion.

Cameron's parents thought this was a wonderful idea and discussed with Cameron items she could sell to continue raising money. They decided on handmade jewelry. Cameron's parents purchased the supplies and donated them to the project so that all of the money Cameron raised would go directly to the USO for care packages.

In April, an article about Cameron was published in The Clermont Sun. In May, Cameron named her project W.O.L.F (Warriors Opened Lines of Freedom). On Nov. 6, Cameron turned 10, and 2 days later she broke the \$1,000 mark at the Amelia Veterans salute held at Amelia Elementary. At this event Cameron met Senator Niehaus, a representative for Jean Schmidt, a representative of Senator Voinovich, County Commissioner Bob Proud and many more. On Dec. 10, Cameron was invited by the Clermont County Veterans Services Commission to their monthly board meeting. Cameron was asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and was presented with a framed certificate and a check (for the project) of \$250. Reporters from Clermont Sun and Clermont Community Journal interviewed Cameron. So far, she has raised \$1,338; \$1,300 has been sent in for care packages. All of Cameron's items sell for \$3 or less, so she has worked very hard to accomplish such a feat.

- Merwin Elementary School recently held their **second Karate Club Assembly**. Martial Arts America holds the club and all proceeds are given to Merwin. First semester, Merwin received more than \$1,000 from this club. The Merwin Spelling Bee will be held on Jan. 12. The winner will move on to the regional bee.
- The West Clermont elementary gifted program is participating in Clermont County's **Battle of the Brains competition** this year. Teams of fifth graders face off against their academic peers from other schools in the county. Representing West Clermont and moving into the second round of competition this year is a second West Clermont team, this one from Merwin Elementary School. Competitions can be viewed at <http://miamitownshipoh.gov/mttv/index.htm>. Merwin students participating in Battle of the Brains are: **Katie Bender, Hannah Schulz, Joe Speth, and Ian Long**.