

Northwest News

February 2015: Issue 35

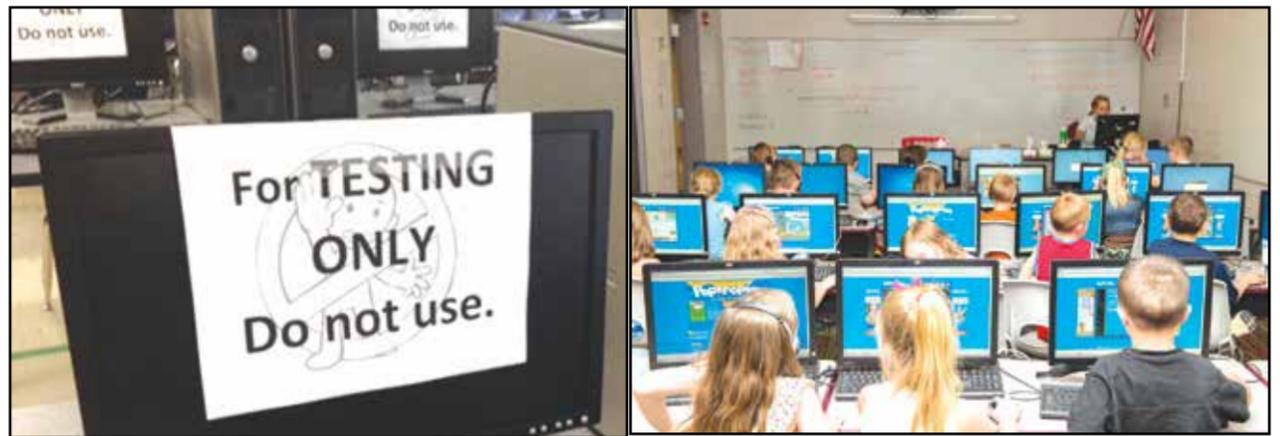


Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education

Northwest Local Ahead of the Curve

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While state-mandated online testing has closed computer labs at many districts, Northwest’s foresight has allowed students to continue using their computers for daily classroom work.

Ohio’s state-mandated online testing begins at Northwest in less than one month. Technology is obviously a large component. Each district across the state has responded to the task of delivering these tests in its own way. Among the many challenges associated with online testing include acquiring the appropriate number of devices for students to test on, configuring all of those devices with the testing vendor’s recommended settings and expanding the data network to accommodate accessing the test.

During the 2010-2011 school year Northwest elected to participate in the House Bill 264 energy conservation project. This allowed the district to update electric and technology while at the same time reducing energy costs. By utilizing this program, old technology that would not have met the specifications for online testing was replaced by new technology that exceeds those specifications. This equipment upgrade alone did not provide enough devices for the students to complete all of the tests within the allotted testing window. After exhaustive research, it was decided to purchase Chromebooks. Not only did the price point make it an attractive testing solution, but their value in daily instruction made them the best overall decision.

Continued on page 3

School District earns “A” Rating Dan Levensgood, Treasurer

In 2002 the voters of the Northwest Local School District passed a bond issue in order to participate with the Ohio School Facilities Commission to build two new schools and renovate and expand the middle school and Stinson Elementary. The process used to sell the bonds in order to generate the funds required for the project included the well-known firm of Standard and Poor’s, which conducted an assessment of the district finances and assigned a credit rating.

Continued on page 3



Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education

Board of Education



From left: Steve Jones, John Hexamer, Rita Gearhart, Board President Bruce Beadle and Vice-President Jim Gindlesberger.

Committed to an Open & Transparent District

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hexamer.j@northwest.sparcc.org
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PERSONS OF CHARACTER HONORED



Don Schilling, Angie King and Al Dangelo

Each school in the Northwest District has chosen a person whose beliefs, attitudes and actions exemplify the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. These individuals were recognized at a special reception at the R.G. Drage Career Technical Center. Here are the nomination letters from each building:

Northwest Primary School: Al Dangelo

Al Dangelo is an example of one who “talks the talk and walks the walk.” As a leader of his church in our community, he has spearheaded a number of projects to see that students get backpacks and supplies for each new school year. Each staff member looks forward to the encouraging notes and small treats. He is one that finds a way to “get it done” if it means helping others. Thank you, Al!

Stinson Elementary School: Don Schilling

Don Schilling has been at Stinson Elementary for only two years. But in those two years, he has had an immediate and positive impact on the staff and students. Our building has never shined brighter or looked more welcoming. The teachers often express how helpful and hard-working he is every day. He willingly helps anyone who asks and does it quickly and with a smile on his face. Don has been a wonderful addition to our Stinson family.

Northwest Middle School: Angie King

Angie King has been nominated as Northwest Middle School’s “Person of Character” because of her unwavering commitment and dedication toward Northwest Middle School and the Northwest community. Angie is an aide at the middle school who fills numerous roles and works tirelessly to complete the never-ending tasks placed before her every day. This past summer Angie created, organized, and led a team of teachers and community groups in the new “Supplies for Success” initiative whereby disadvantaged Northwest students of all ages received a fully-stocked backpack as they returned to school.

Northwest High School: Heather Matoszka

Mrs. Heather Matoszka continually maintains a student focus. She is responsible, trustworthy, fair, and compassionate. Her interactions with students, parents, and fellow staff members showcase her core values, such as honesty, integrity, and respect. Mrs. Matoszka is actively involved in service to others as the advisor to National Honor Society and as a member of Rotary. She is an outstanding educator who challenges and supports her students to excel in and out of the classroom.

Northwest Ahead of the Curve continued

Configuring every device for testing takes time—a great deal of time. Several school districts in Ohio have closed all of their computer labs to configure them and insure that nothing happens to them, leaving no student access to computers for the duration of the three to four month set-up and testing window. Users can actually disrupt carefully adjusted browser settings simply by using the machine. Some districts are dedicating all of their technology resources to these preparations and it is negatively affecting daily operations. In other words, for those districts, the computers will not be available for classroom use. Fortunately, that is not the case at Northwest as computers are used by students daily.

How has our district stayed ahead of the curve? Northwest uses virtual desktops. Think of it like a private “cloud.” Once all of the configurations were completed and tested, the desktop used for testing was replicated and will be held in its current state until needed for testing. Meanwhile, our students will continue to use their school computers as normal desktops. Management like this was made possible by HB 264. Chromebooks are configured from a management console that only requires the necessary apps be installed once in this console and then delivered through the magic that is mobile device management.



School District earns “A” Rating continued

Dan Levengood, Treasurer

Standard and Poor’s recently completed their periodic review of Northwest’s financial statements, community economic outlook, and five-year forecast and affirmed its “A” rating for Northwest Local Schools. While the entire report is available for viewing on the school’s website, I would like to share some of the observations made in the report with you.

In the report Standard and Poor’s writes, “The district’s budgetary performance has been steady, with five consecutive general fund surpluses on a GAAP basis. The district has no plans to approach voters for any *new* operating money referendums for the next five years. We consider the district’s overall debt levels low at \$1,672 per capita and more moderate at 3.3% of market value. The stable outlook on the underlying rating reflects our expectation that the district will continue its positive budgetary performance and make the necessary adjustments to maintain at least good cash reserves.”

The “A” rating assigned to the district by Standard and Poor’s is a significant upgrade from where we were before the passage and renewal of our school district income tax and our continued renewal of the emergency levy, which was first passed in 1992. This emergency levy will be placed before voters for renewal again, most likely within the next year. The full report from Standard and Poor’s is available online. If you have specific questions please do not hesitate to contact me, Dan Levengood, at 330.854.6397 ext. 6108.



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Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education

Curriculum News

Debora Clark, Director of Instruction

Northwest Staff and Students Preparing for New Online State Assessments

Staff and students are busy preparing for the upcoming state assessments, which will begin in mid-February. The state assessments have been redesigned to include a performance-based assessment and an end-of-year assessment. The performance-based assessment enables students to apply their knowledge during simulations, problem-solving activities, or written analysis of a text. During the end-of-year assessments, students are asked to demonstrate their mastery of the course content.

A small amount of anxiety or nervousness is common as staff and students anticipate the upcoming tests, this year it may be a little more stressful as the transition is made from paper and pencil tests to online assessments. Staff members are trained on test administration protocols and students have reviewed sample questions and required technology skills.

Prior to a testing session students are asked to get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and come prepared to "show-off" their skills. The data gathered from the state assessments provides the district with a "snap shot" of how our students are progressing compared to their peers in the district, county, and state. The data is also used to adjust instructional practices, determine areas of curricular strength and concern, and make the necessary adjustments to ensure our students are college and career-ready.

As both testing windows approach, building principals and teachers will send home testing schedules and any additional information needed to ensure a positive testing environment for our students. The district began preparing for this transition two years ago and we believe we are prepared for a smooth transition to online assessments.

Instructional Technology Integration

Instructional technology integration continues to move forward in our classrooms. Nine mobile computer carts, each equipped with a charging station, Chromebooks, mice, and wireless connectivity equipment, have been deployed. Students at Stinson Elementary, Northwest Middle School and Northwest High School are using these devices daily. The carts are used during classroom instruction, as well as for online assessments. Staff members are working with students to strengthen their technology skills, as well as their online assessment skills.

A technology scope and sequence is being developed which identifies critical technology skills for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Areas of instruction include:

- Understanding Computer/Technology Hardware;
- Operating System Basics;
- Effective and Efficient Web Browsing;
- Searching and Search Engines;
- File/Document Management;
- Using Productivity Tools;
- Spreadsheets and Databases;
- Word Processing;
- Copyright, Citing Sources, and Plagiarism;
- Presentations;
- Email, Internet and Social Networking Etiquette and
- Finding, Choosing and Using and/or Developing Software Apps, Tools, and Simulations.



Staff members will use an evaluation rubric to evaluate each student's level of proficiency. Implementation of the course of study will begin during the 2015-2016 school year.

Third-grade Guarantee Update

All third-grade students must obtain a minimum score on the state reading test to move on to fourth grade. During the 2014-2015 school year, a student must score 394 for advancement to fourth grade. The students will have a second opportunity to attain this score during the spring administration of the Grade 3 Reading OAA. Stinson Elementary third-graders will take the spring Reading OAA on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. The Grade 3 Reading OAA remains a paper pencil test and the results of the spring test will be released by June 30, 2015.

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee legislation allows districts to administer an alternate assessment to third-graders. Students who obtain the required score will be promoted to fourth grade. Northwest Local will administer the alternate assessment, in early May, to any third-grader who did not obtain a 394 on the fall reading assessment. Students who obtain a passing score on the alternate assessment will be promoted to fourth grade prior to the return of the spring OAA assessment scores. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please contact his or her classroom teacher or building principal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7	Northwest H.S. Winter Formal Dance	8-11 p.m.
February 10	Northwest M.S. Band and Choir Concert	6:30 p.m.
February 13	No school: teacher in-service	
February 16	No school: Presidents Day	
February 19	Paulo Padilha and Group Concert	7 p.m.
February 23	Board of Education meeting	7 p.m.
March 6-8	Shrek the Musical: For tickets call 330-854-2205, ext. PUFF (7833).	
March 22	Community Day	1-5 p.m.
March 30-April 3	Spring Break	

HOW MANY SNOW DAYS DO WE HAVE REMAINING?

This question is very common as we reach the middle of winter here in Ohio.

The calculation of calamity days, however, has changed. Several years ago, under the direction of Governor Ted Strickland, the school year was converted to hours, rather than days. In other words, this year students are required to be in school for a specific number of hours during the year. Here is what you really need to know:

We have enough hours in the school year because of the length of our school day so that we can have 13 calamity days without penalty. However, we are using two of those days for waiver days, commonly referred to as staff development days. As a result, the district now has 11 calamity days. So far, we have used 5 of those. If we exceed the 11 days, we will have to make up those days in the summer as planned on the adopted calendar. By the way, the Northwest District is no longer doing blizzard bags.

In case of school closings, Northwest Local Schools posts information on all of the major news channels—NBC, ABC, CBS and FOX. We also announce closings on WHBC. In addition, we post the closing immediately on our website. You can sign up for an automatic text message by going to the school website. Under the link for “parents,” click on the link for “mobile app.” From that link, you can put in information to get the text message. Also, the district calls students' homes with information about the closing.



Northwest News

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Canal Fulton Rock Concert 2015

This will be a rock concert unlike any other where the music is not what you will be coming for.

The performers of this rock concert will be those with special needs that will also jam with other musicians where just the pure love of music will be the bond of all of the performers and the audience alike for an experience of a lifetime.

This event will take place sometime in the spring 2015

If you are a performer or know of someone that would like to participate or you are interested in sponsoring trophies or medals for all of the performers, you can email Ken Roberts of the Warehouse on the Canal at kmqmroberts@hotmail.com and for updated information go to www.discovercanalfulton.com.

Sponsored by:

Warehouse on the Canal and

Canal Fulton Arts Council

Promotions team member: James Durkin

COMMUNITY DAY

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
A DAY FILLED WITH
FOOD, MUSIC AND
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY,
MARCH 22, FROM
1-5 P.M. IN THE
HIGH SCHOOL
COMMONS.

If you, your business
or your organization
is interested in
participating, please
contact
Dr. Mike Shreffler at
330-854-2291.

Get your tickets early for this rare adventure!

**NORTHWEST
HIGH SCHOOL**
Presents
SHREK
THE
MUSICAL

**Northwest High School
Puffenberger Hall**
Entrance "F"
8580 Erie Ave. NW
Canal Fulton, Ohio

ADVANCE SALE
\$10.00 Adult
\$8.00 Student & Sr. Cit
Reserved Seating
No refunds
ALL tickets \$10.00 at the door.

For full details,
visit our school website:
www.northwest.sparcc.org

Friday, March 6 ♦ 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 7 ♦ 2:00 pm
Saturday, March 7 ♦ 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 8 ♦ 2:00 pm

Please visit the ticket booth in Puffenberger Hall - entrance F
Saturdays 2/28 & 3/7 from 10 am - 2 pm ♦ Thursdays 2/26 & 3/5 from 5 pm - 8 pm
Or call the ticket booth at 330-854-2205 ext. PUFF (7833)
Tickets may also be purchased at the door one hour before show time based on availability. All tickets at the door are \$10.

NORTHWEST EXPLORERS

Who We Are

The Northwest Fire Explorer Program is a youth-based organization chartered by the Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township Fire Departments through Learning for Life and Boy Scouts of America that focuses on Fire Service Exploring. The organization allows teens and young adults to see, experience and train on many aspects of typical firefighter duties, including all aspects of the firefighter's job from emergency medical procedures, to placing ladders and live fire training. The intent is to allow the participants the opportunity to see what being a firefighter is "all about" before committing to a career in the fire service. We have a strong focus on volunteer and community service work.



Brief History

In the spring of 2011 the program was re-started after several years of inactivity. Since then we have gone from about 5 members to over 20! The post has been re-building itself ever since. We've had great success and have made excellent progress: emphasizing physical fitness, instruction, volunteering and practical activities. Our goal is to help them develop into productive citizens of the global community while learning about discipline, good work ethics and moral values from positive role models. We plan to continue building the program to be very well recognized both locally and nationally.

What is an Explorer?

An Explorer is a person involved in the Learning for Life Explorer program. Fire Service Explorers receive training and certifications including, but not limited to

Fire Suppression Training

EMS Training

CPR/AED Training and Certification

CERT Mass Casualty Training and Certification

Basic First Aid Training and Certification

Fire Department Operations

Explorers also participate in community service. All Explorers are required to volunteer in order to remain in the program. They work close with the Fire Department to learn new things and participate in assisting firefighters during observational/ride-alongs.

Who can apply?

We're open to any student in 6th-grade through 12th-grade. After graduation we typically hire our explorers onto the department as part-time firefighters.

For more information, contact Shawn Yerian at the Canal Fulton Fire Department at 330-854-2456 (#205).

Shawn Yerian

Captain – Fire Prevention

Canal Fulton Fire Department

syerian@cityofcanalfulton-oh.gov

330-854-2456 (ext 205)

330-854-0619 (fax)

330-413-4992 (cell)



Northwest News

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NORTHWEST PRIMARY SCHOOL



Mrs. Huston



Mr. Schreiner



African Drums

Multicultural Day was a success! The students paraded the hallways waving the flags of the different countries that they were studying. With the help of Akron University, students were involved in the presentations on Africa, Japan, North America, Mexico, Columbia, India, Australia, and Korea. At the end of the day, the students were treated to performances by Greek and African dancers. The staff did a remarkable job of displaying the continents in the hallways. Throughout the week, speakers shared about North America, China, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Mr. Mark Perry



Greek Dancers



Chloe Arnold and Madelyn Begert



Northwest Schools Kindergarten Registration

Our district-wide kindergarten registration will be held this year at Northwest Primary School. Please mark your calendars for the following:

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 12, 2015
12:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.**



Please remember to **bring your child**, your child's birth certificate, immunization record, social security number and any court documents regarding your child. Our transportation director, school nurse, principal, kindergarten teachers, and building secretary will be available to answer your questions.

INVESTIGATE KINDERGARTEN

Also, once again this year Northwest Primary is inviting each preschool for Kindergarten Investigation Day. The preschool students visit a kindergarten classroom, participate in art, music, and P.E. and enjoy snacks with kindergarteners in our cafeteria. They each receive a token item from each specialist and kindergarten teacher. The visit runs approximately 90 minutes. Please check with your preschool for date and time.

Discovery Time
363 West Cherry St.
Canal Fulton, 44614
Director: Mary Cutlip
330.854.3573

S.P.J. School
532 High St.
Canal Fulton, 44614
Principal: Patty Landenberger
330.854.2823

Early Explorers
2454 Locust St.
Canal Fulton, 44614
Director: Susan Sarkiewicz
330.854.9121

River Tree Christian Preschool
7373 Portage St. NW
Massillon, 44646
Director: Cindy Hernandez
330.494.1860 x102

High Point Little People
Pre-School
2545 W. Comet Rd.
Clinton, 44216
Director: Lisa Herold
330.854.1025

Stark County Integrated Pre-School
8436 Erie N.
Canal Fulton 44614
Director: Lynn Boerner
330.854-4132

Here for You Child Care
250 Canal Street S
Canal Fulton, 44614
Director: Willa Smith
330.754.0833

All 4-year-old and 5-year-old children (with parents) currently not attending preschool are invited to INVESTIGATE OUR KINDERGARTEN! on Friday, March 6, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please call 330-854-5405 for reservations. Unfortunately, no reservations will be accepted after Thursday, February 26th.



On Thursday, February 26th, at 6:00 p.m., Northwest Primary will be hosting the 14th Annual Family Science Night. Please help create a science fair project that can be displayed on the 26th in our cafeteria. All participants will receive a participation certificate and have their picture displayed in the hallway outside the office. Refreshments will follow the program. Set-up begins at 6:00 p.m. and certificate presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.

KISS THE PIG!



Grab all your spare change!

This year we are collecting money to benefit the Wounded Warriors Project® which helps thousands of injured warriors returning from the battlefield by providing assistance to their families.

Change will be collected from January 28th to February 10th .

Each class has a collection jar that looks like a pig. Students are encouraged to "feed" their piggy with change. The event will wrap up with an assembly on February 12th, at 2:45 in the gym, where the teachers from each grade with the most money collected will "KISS THE PIG"!

Northwest News

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W.S. STINSON ELEMENTARY

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK: FEBRUARY 2-6

National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), is being celebrated from Feb 2-6, 2015, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within our schools and how students are different as a result of what school counselors do. National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a bright future.

In today's world, the role of the school counselor encompasses more than just scheduling and writing letters of recommendation. School counselors are actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents. Additionally, school counselors work in a partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world; look for positive ways to enhance students' social/personal, educational and career development; work with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves. Professional school counselors are certified, experienced educators with a master's degree in guidance and counseling. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program.

We would like to express gratitude and celebrate the contributions of our Northwest School guidance counselors.

At Northwest Primary, Mrs. Stephanie Fox, is a licensed social worker who performs that job of a school counselor.

At Stinson Elementary, Mrs. McKendry is in her eighth-year as a school counselor for Northwest Local Schools. With 15 years in education, she is currently the elementary representative of the Ohio School Counselors Association and is the Bullying Prevention Program District Coordinator. Mrs. McKendry became a school counselor because she wanted to be more involved in the social/emotional well-being of students beyond the classroom experience. She also had a school counselor that helped her during a difficult time and inspired her to want to do the same for others. What Mrs. McKendry loves most about her job is being able to connect with students in a way that she never could as a teacher. She also loves being a support for families and helping be a bridge between the school and community. She feels very lucky to be part of such a wonderful educational community. She and her husband, Craig, have three children.



Marcy McKendry

At Northwest Middle School, Mrs. Cogar has been a school counselor for Northwest Local Schools for seven years. A resident of Canal Fulton, Mrs. Cogar became a school counselor because she has wanted to work with kids since she herself was a child. She knew that she wanted to be in a helping profession with kids: "I saw some of my friends and cousins go through some things as they grew up that made me see the real need for kids to have a go-to person in their lives. I always felt comfortable in the role of being a listener and problem-solver so this career seemed like it would be a good fit." Mrs. Cogar values everything about her job, but the thing that she loves the most is building relationships with students and watching them grow up physically and emotionally. She feels so blessed to be doing something that she loves and hopes that she can make a difference in some lives along the way.



Jessica Cogar

At Northwest High School, Mrs. Tanya Javanovic is in her sixteenth-year in education, her sixth in Northwest Local Schools. She began her career teaching American and world history at Central-Hower High School in Akron Public Schools before earning a master's degree in school counseling. She became a school counselor because she wanted to be influential in the lives of kids in a capacity other than that of a classroom teacher. She greatly values the relationships that she has established with her students and their families. She and her husband have two children and reside in Green.

Dan Senften is in his second year as a guidance counselor in Northwest Local Schools. He previously worked in an alternative school. His first job out of college was an instructional aide, which led to his desire to work in a school. He enjoyed having the opportunity to connect with students on multiple levels and impact them in a positive way. The thing Mr. Senften values most is being able to work with students in such a variety of ways. He enjoys that each day is unique and presents new challenges. He is the proud father of a four-month-old baby girl.



Tanya Javanovic and Dan Senften

Stinson Students care about their Community

During the holiday season Stinson students collected over 600 boxed and canned goods that were donated to local community organizations through Stark County Hunger Task Force. Thanks are extended to all of you who made contributions to this effort.





CANAL FULTON YMCA

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ymcastark.org
330-830-6275

TRY TO CONTAIN YOUR EXCITEMENT



Before and After School Child Care

- Children grades K –5th enrolled in Northwest Schools
- Hours: 7:00 am – 8:55 am, 3:20 pm – 6:30 pm
- Care available only on scheduled school days

Y FUN DAYS

- Summer Program for Children grades K-5th
- Tue. & Thu. From 9am – 2pm at a Northwest School
- Weekly themes, field trips & more!
- Registration, prices & themes available on March 2nd

All Day Summer Camp available in Jackson.

Contact Lyndsay Gatto for more information:
330-830-6275 or lgatto@ymcastark.org

IT'S NOT JUST KIDS STUFF

Although, the kids stuff is awesome, too!

Adult Group Exercise Programs

- Morning classes held at SALT BOX Ministry building:
9:30-10:30am Mon & Thurs
- Evening classes held at NW Primary School
6-7:00pm Tue & Wed; Yoga & Cardio Combo
- Come to any or all classes for one low fee per site
- Call for session dates

SilverSneakers® Exercise Classes

- Held at Northwest Stark Senior Center
- Classes on Monday & Friday mornings from
9:05-10:05am

Contact Pam Leddon for more info:
330-830-6275 or pleddon@ymcastark.org



Financial assistance available



Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education

NORTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS, STUDENTS

Acosta, Jocelyn
Ailiff, Morgan
Barabasch, Madison
Barcheck, Chloe
Baughman, Grant
Beichler, Ryleigh
Bell, Macie
Bender, Natalie
Blankenship, Joshua
Bowman, Nathaniel
Bowyer, Nicholas
Brockmeyer, Avery
Caldwell, Taylor
Cheshire, Madison
Chumita, Cailin
Conyers, Josie
Croasmun, Collin
Cudnik, Riley
Culp, Kamryn
Cunningham, Owen
Dagnen, Kassidy
Dangelo, Maria
Davis, Ryan
DeFrank, Alexia
Deguzis, Ayla
Dolensky, Joseph
Dolensky, Leeann
Donaldson, Austin
Donohue, Ian
Estlock, Josie
Feaser, Natalie
Fennell, Luke
Fightmaster, Keely
Fincher, Reagan
Finefrock, Rachel
Finney, Joseph
Flickinger, Katherine
Followay, Briana
Foulk, Marina
Foutty, Shaye
Fowler, Isaac
Freer, Autumn
Garside, Emily
Giroux, Allison
Glauthier, Alexander
Goggins, Felicia
Gray, Rylan
Hamad, Malia
Harbaugh, Sidney
Harris, Payton
Houlehan, Christian
Houser, Collin
Howard, Abbie
Hughes, Sarah
Hunter, Austin
Huscusson, Nathan
Hutzell, Dean
Hyrne, Ethan
Jansen, Shiann
Jones, Alayna
Joyner, Richard
Kager, Luke
Kapper, Sophie
Kelleher, Austin
Kraft, Kennedy
Kremer, Maria
Kuhn, Caroline
Kurtz, Emma

Northwest Middle School is proud of the students who make the Honor Roll. Honor Roll students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The highest possible grade point average for the middle school is 4.0. Students who achieve the Merit Roll must have a grade point average of 3.0-3.4. Being named to the Honor Roll is an outstanding achievement, and we wish to congratulate all of these students and their parents.

LaFay, Elora
Lantz, Amber
Lawrence, Kelsey
Lawrence, Kiersten
Lower, Morgan
Luhring, Kyle
Malboeuf, Caleb
Manns, Morgan
Marecek, Jordan
Marecek, Tyler
May, Lauren
McKelroy, Patrick
Metzger, Dominic
Michel, Lauren
Miller, Jensen
Miller, Skylar
Mitchell, Hannah
Moellendick, Ryan
Moon, Ashlie
Morton, Zachary
Murillo, Olivia
Nair, Ashton
Null, Jack
O'Brien, Lucas
Ovendorf, Julie
Owsiany, Ashley
Price, Chase
Rawson, Malik
Rhodes, Cameron
Ridenour, Nicholas
Roach, Liam
Robinson, Eileen
Rood, Jack
Rouse, William
Sandoval, Hailey
Shackelford, Paige
Shanor, Jack
Sickman, Chloe
Skelley, Jaden
Smith, Connor
Smith, Heidi
Smith, Jacobi
Smith, Jessica
Smith, Nicholas
Snook, Kati
Soles, Zoe
Spradling, Lauren
Stewart, Cassie
Stockert, Joseph
Stockwell, Devin
Strong, Tylor
Trompower, Kiersten
Vargo, Kami
Villers, Grace
Vinson, Danya
Wagster, Steven
Walker, Erin
Walsh, Zoey
Weigand, Jarod
Welsh, Anna
Wise, Alyssa
Wise, Ethan
Wise, Katherine
Wise, Lillian
Woodall Macquaide, Gracie
Woodruff, Mason
Woodrum, Hayley
Yoder, Erin

Return of Academic Challenge

We have not had an academic challenge team here at the middle school for several years, but now it's back. The team is being led by former district administrator, Jay Baughman. The team is a mix of sixth through eighth-graders who had to try out to earn a spot on the team. Academic Challenge is a team-based competition where the schools compete for points by answering trivia questions, covering such topics as math, science, history and current events. Our team won its first match against Massillon.



From left to right. Back row: Coach Baughman, Tyler Dingler, Kaira Zito, Caleb Malboeuf, Aiden McCoy, Andrew Moellendick, Allison Giroux, Devine Portis. Front row: Ryan Moellendick, Ashton Schwiger, Dallas Saxer, Owen Cunningham, Ethan Tichenor, Nathan Bowman

After-school Guitar Lessons

Northwest Middle School is honored to have Mr. Jim Marron instructing middle school students on how to play the guitar through a 13-week after-school program. In addition to being a college professor at the University of Akron, Mr. Marron has played with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. A graduate of The Manhattan School of Music, Mr. Marron has performed in Italy, France, Germany, Ireland and throughout the U.S. He has composed modern dance music that has been performed across the U.S. and Canada.



This guitar program is offered weekly to middle school students after school, free of charge. It is amazing to see the students start out, some never having played an instrument, blossom into wonderful guitar players. The guitar program ends with a performance at the String Festival, an international event, in Massillon in March.

A Lesson in Brotherhood from a Seventh-grade Student

Seventh-grader Jack Shanor had a decision to make. As a student of karate at Impact Martial Arts, he was awarded 25 dollars to donate to a program that would make an impact on the community. A thoughtful young



Jack

man, Jack discussed the donation with his parents: "My parents and I brainstormed ways to donate the money and include Grady." Grady is Jack's younger brother who is in third-grade at Stinson. Grady has autism. Jack decided to make his donation to Northwest Local's Special Education Department.

Jack says he and Grady get along "very well." As Jack puts it, "We're very caring and loving with each other. Whenever he needs something, I'm there to help him." Jack feels it's important that family members look out for each other: "I would like to have families with children who have special needs to be loving with each other. Whatever their differences might be should be set aside."

Northwest Middle School guidance counselor Jessica Cogar praises Jack, who wants to be a teacher someday: "I have seen Jack interacting with his brother and he is so patient and kind with him. His decision to donate his money to our district's special education department is a testament to how much he loves his brother and wants to help other students like him succeed in school. We are blessed to have students like Jack in our district and we are so grateful for his donation."

Cheerleading Champs

The Northwest Middle School Cheerleading Competition Squad participated in the Tenth-Annual Children's Cheer Classic Sunday, January 24th. The competition was held at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. By participating in this competition, they supported the great cause of raising awareness for the Akron Children's Hospital "Reach Out and Read" program. The proceeds also benefitted "Shouts for Sharon" for Sharon Budd.



The competition squad consists of seventh-grader, Sophie Kapper, and eighth-graders, Maci King, Maddie Kurz and Erin Walker. These girls performed with such unity and vigor that they were awarded the championship in their division. Come cheer on our girls as they compete at their next competition at the Canton Civic Center February 15.



Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

NORTHWEST ALUMNI CORNER

In this issue we continue our series of recognizing the successes of Northwest grads. We welcome suggestions of alumni to be recognized by our community members. This month's alumna is Professor Stephannie Gearhart, a graduate of the Class of 1994.



After graduating from NWHS in 1994, Stephannie Gearhart went on to Bowling Green State University where she majored in English and minored in Psychology. She graduated with Honors from BGSU in 1998 and attended Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA) where she earned an MA in English in 2000 and a PhD in English in 2004. Her first job was at the American University in Cairo (Egypt) where she taught in the English and Comparative Literature Department. She lived and worked in Cairo from 2004 to 2006. In 2006 she was hired as an Assistant Professor in BGSU's English Department. In 2012 she received tenure

and became an Associate Professor at BGSU. Her area of specialization is Renaissance drama, and she regularly teaches courses on Shakespeare as well as Shakespearean Adaptations.

Several people impacted her life at Northwest Schools: "Mrs. Margaret Ann Ellis (English), though, is the first who comes to mind. I remember being very impressed by Mrs. Ellis' professionalism, the vastness of her knowledge, and her dedication to her career. She was always patient with her students and exposed us to a vast array of literature and cultures. She pushed us to do our very best and modeled for us what it meant to live a life of the mind. At the same time, Mrs. Ellis was very practical — I often think that my ability to look at a situation no matter what it is and say, 'Well, okay, look we just need to do X here and we'll be fine.' is to some degree the result of Mrs. Ellis' similar attitude — and very funny. Her laugh was infectious and her smile always expressed genuine delight. Though perhaps I didn't know it at the time, she showed me what I wanted to become: smart, practical, and witty.

Others who were influential during my time at NWHS were Mr. Garry Masowich (Band), Mr. Jim Miller (Math) and Mr. John Rochus (Science). Each of these teachers, in their own unique ways, encouraged me to perform at a very high level. Along with Mrs. Ellis, they prepared me for college and beyond, and for that I am grateful.

As a college professor, she has insights to share with the current students of Northwest Local Schools. "The advice I would give current Northwest students would perhaps be to be open to new experiences. I could not have predicted where my life would go—that having grown up in the tiny town of Canal Fulton I would end up with living in Cairo, Egypt, a city of roughly 16 million people, for example — but by being open to what the world has to offer, I have found many great surprises. My life has been, and continues to be, enriched by the new people I meet and the new situations in which I find myself, and I hope that current students at Northwest, by taking some risks and being open to new experiences, will be able to lead exciting and meaningful lives."

PAULO PADIHA COMES TO PUFFENBERGER

The Ohio Regional Music Arts and Cultural Outreach (ORMACO) will be presenting another concert Thursday, February 19, at 7 p.m. in Puffenberger Hall as part of its 2014-15 World Tour of Music Concert series. This concert will feature Paulo Padilha and Group, which will be brought to the region with the generous support of Art Midwest's World Fest grant program.

Catch the swing and rhythm of urban Brazil with Paulo Padilha and Group. Highly acclaimed as a musician and clever lyricist with a mischievous sense of humor, Paulo Padilha's songs take interest in everything from mother-in-law as muse to philosophic ramblings on art. A little samba, a little pop—you'll dance all the way home! Tickets are available at the Northwest Local Schools District Office and Buehler's in Jackson Township or online at www.ormaco.org. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

Classes of 2018 and beyond – Three Pathways

Keeping up with state-mandated testing and graduation requirements is a challenging task for parents. Here, in a nutshell, are the requirements for graduation in Ohio.

The Ohio Legislature updated Ohio's graduation requirements in June 2014. The new graduation requirements begin with the Class of 2018; in other words, a ninth-grader in the Fall 2014. All students will be required to take end-of-course exams in the area of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies and meet one of three requirements:

- 1. Earn a cumulative passing score on seven end-of-course exams,**
 - Class of 2018: English I, English II, Algebra I or Integrated Math I, Geometry or Integrated Math II, Physical Science, American History, American Government
 - Class of 2019: English I, English II, Algebra I or Integrated Math I, Geometry or Integrated Math II, Biology, American History, American Government
- 2. Earn a remediation free score on a national college entrance exam such as ACT or SAT, or**
- 3. Earn a State Board of Education-approved industry recognized credential or a state-issued license for practice in a career and achieve a score that demonstrates workforce readiness and employability.**

#2 above – The exact test and “remediation free score” have not been determined.

ACC: Athletic Charitable Committee

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

March 7: Diamond Club is hosting a Steak Fry at Portage Lakes Eagles from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Call John Markus at 330-801-0252 or Tim Earnsberger at 330-575-0158 for tickets.

March 14: Softball Boosters are hosting a Steak Fry at Canal Fulton VFW from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Call Russ Morgan at 330-715-8081 for tickets.

Bingo is still in our future! We are working out the details of this fundraiser and will share additional information as it is available.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

ACC – first Sunday of each month, 5:00 p.m. at HS Commons

Runners Club – third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at HS in room 107

Touchdown Club – first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at VFW

Takedown Club – first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at VFW

Northwest Cheer Association – first Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. in HS Home Ec

Lady Indians Basketball Boosters – second Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m. in MS Library

Lady Indians Soccer – second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. in MS Library

Girls Softball Boosters – third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Grayce Ann's Family Restaurant

Diamond Club – first Sunday of each month, 6:00 p.m. in HS Commons (www.nwindiansbaseball.com)



Northwest News

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WINTER SPORTS TEAM PHOTOS

VARSDITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL



Sitting (L-R): Brady Schenz and Ethan Hyrne.
Kneeling: (L-R): Scott Wormald, Chris Barbita, George Workinger, Seth Loper, Nate Jordan, and Ethan Zellers.
Standing (L-R): Coach Mike Lower. Coach Mike Yokum, Cory Earnsberger, Austin Cundiff, Adam Haswell, Michael Zervos, Nathan Booth, Jeff Shimko, Matt Fennell, Brian Belles, Tyler Devenport, Nick Neitz, Seth Hippli, Brayden Penrod, Jacob Hyrne, and Coach Dave Cooper.

VARSDITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL



Kneeling (L-R): Alicia Cundiff, Cassie Dawson, Allison Slusser, Chelsea Grisby, Paige Henline, and Megan McPerry.
Standing (L-R): Coach Donnie Schenz, Madison Worden, Makenzie Boecker, Alayna Penrod, Abbie Swaino, Leah Luhring, Sarah Butti, Chara Kelleman, Kayla Ley, Hayley Macko, and Coach Ryan Stoops.

VARSDITY CHEERLEADERS

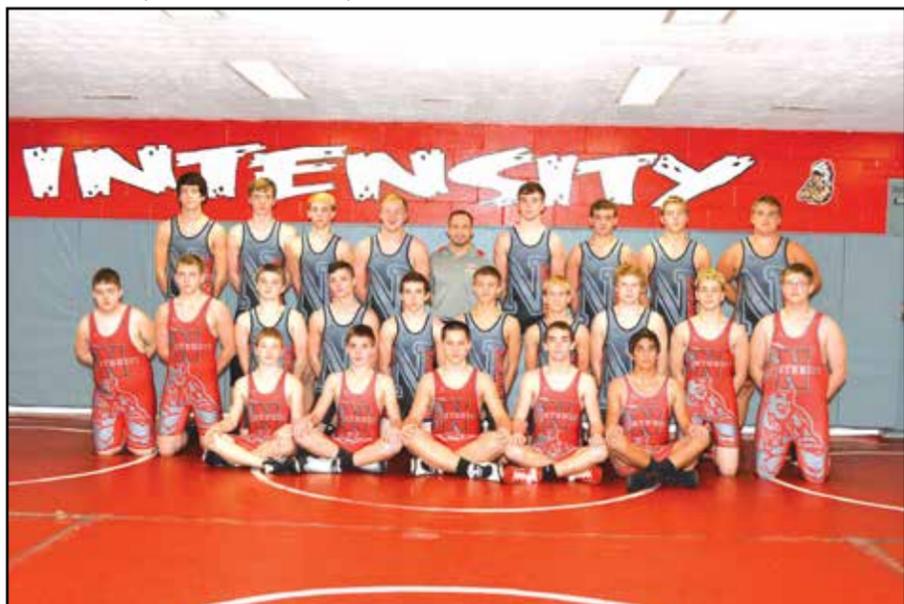


L-R: Kelly Walker, Breanne Kushnir, Aubrey Walker, Molly Ogg, Hannah Brotherton, Cassidy Spencer, Lauren Stover, Taylor Lawrence, Marisa Wood, and Brooke West.

JUNIOR VARSITY CHEERLEADERS



Front Row (L-R): Kristin Sobie, Gracyn Loper, and Jenna Hutzell
Middle Row (L-R): Caitlin Ross and Evie Aaron
Back Row (L-R): Kelsey Francis, Claire Sutphin, and Maddie Markus



WRESTLING

Sitting (L-R): Jared Szekeley, Dustin Juszli, David Davis, Charles "Nick" Osborn, and Spencer Fulton.

Kneeling (L-R): Ryan Hall, Quinton Davis, Josh Harless, Jacob Robinson, Shawn Nemet, Hunter Kosco, Josh Smith, Jacob Klein, Tim Gissinger, and Donovan Prater.

Standing (L-R): Zach Earnsberger, David Fitzwater, Brian Hull, Kyle Meyers, Coach Zach Meissner, Dalton Cox, Chris Jackson, Nate Gissinger, and Eli Beers.

