

# Northwest News

February 2014: Issue 27



*Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education*

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## PROMISES MADE PROMISES KEPT

For several months in 2009 and 2010, the district asked the Northwest community for its feedback on the future of our schools. We formed separate resident volunteer committees to help guide us: the Plan B Committee and the Finance Committee. The Plan B Committee held more than 30 Community Coffees asking residents for their opinions. We also reached out through the district newsletters, school newsletters, e-mail communications, and community meetings and events to ask the community to choose a plan for Northwest's future.

Considering the community's feedback and following the recommendation from the Finance Committee, the district placed a 1% earned income tax on the May 2010 ballot in order to keep the district solvent and bring back needed programs for our students. The district explained that in order to maintain fiscal responsibility, not all cuts could be restored. The community passed the issue; and, over the past four years, the district has diligently maintained the promises it made to voters. Now the district is placing a **renewal** of the 1% earned income tax on the May ballot.

*On page 2 Dan Levensgood presents part one of his "Treasurer's Report."*

*On page 6 see how we have kept our promises to our community.*

May  
6

Promises Made  
Promises Kept

Northwest Schools

EARNED Income Tax



# Northwest News

*Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education*

Board of Education



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

**Committed to an Open  
& Transparent District**

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hexamer.j@northwest.sparcc.org  
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beadle.b@northwest.sparcc.org  
gindlesberger.j@northwest.sparcc.org

## Treasurer’s Report

Dan Levengood, Northwest District Treasurer

“Show Me the Money” was a popular catch phrase from the 1996 movie “Jerry Maguire.” Over the next two issues of the *Northwest News* I will show you the school district’s financial situation in relation to receipts and then expenses. The fiscal years that will be compared are fiscal year 2009, the school year before the federal government’s stimulus programs began and also the year before the community passed the Earned Income Tax levy, and fiscal year 2013, a year with no federal stimulus effects and with a full year of income tax collections. Also remember that at the end of fiscal year 2009 we were \$1,316,171.00 in debt.

The table below itemizes our **receipt** collections for the two years in the comparison:

Source of Receipts	Fiscal Year 09	Fiscal Year 13
Real Estate Collections	6,132,180.00	6,236,659.00
Tangible Personal Property Tax	349,320.00	0.00
Earned Income Tax	0.00	2,378,833.00
State Foundation for Schools	9,342,298.00	8,488,490.00
Property Tax Allocation	1,027,945.00	995,712.00
All Other Revenues	740,890.00	249,059.00
Total Revenue	17,592,633.00	18,348,753.00

The first source of revenue, Real Estate Tax Collections, has been consistent in the amount of money the school receives since 1992 when the last new property tax issue was passed. The real estate tax levies are dollar amount levies so there is not much variance from year-to-year. Occasionally, the reason for annual variances in collections is the delinquency of individual payments. Delinquencies will reduce the amount Northwest may receive one year and increase the collection in another. The second income item is Tangible Personal Property Tax, which for many years was a business tax on inventories and equipment. Tangible Personal Property taxes are no longer existent in Ohio, having been phased out as part of a broader series of tax reforms enacted in 2005. The school at one time collected over half a million from this tax. The third line item is the School District Income Tax, which only generated revenue starting in fiscal year 2011. The dollar amount collected in year 2013 is approximately what the Ohio Department of Taxation had forecast for us.

The next income item is our largest source of revenue: the Ohio Department of Education State Aid. The State of Ohio has used many different formulas to determine the amount of aid a school district will receive. The formulas use many different factors, such as the number of pupils that are enrolled in our school, transportation efficiency of the school, the number of students that are enrolled that may have some special need, career technical education, economic conditions in our district and others. Also, in the formula for some districts, including Northwest, are guarantees that cap the amount of state aid a district could lose, if in a certain year, the calculation would drastically decrease the district's receipts. These two numbers from fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2013 reflect the gross amount of our receipts from the State and include our guarantee amounts.

Property Tax Allocation is revenue from the State of Ohio that replaces the local dollars that homeowners do not pay, due to either the 10% or 2.5% rollbacks received on their real estate tax bills. The allocation also generates a reimbursement to the school for all the Homestead Exemptions that are applied to property owned by qualified homeowners. This amount can vary slightly from year to year, based on the property valuations that are set by the county and state agencies. Finally we come to "Other Revenues" which, as its name suggests, includes many different sources that may be unrelated to anything else in this category. Examples of other revenues include classroom fees, fees for all-day kindergarten, pay-to-participate fees, rental of school property, Medicaid reimbursements, and fines for overdue or lost books. The fees are very liquid and may come and go from year to year or also be impacted by legislation.

My hope in showing you where the money comes from has been informational. The revenue received by Northwest has some consistent sources but also has some inconsistent sources based on differing factors. If you have any questions or would like a further explanation of the district's revenues or expenditures please contact me in the treasurer's office at 330.854.6397 or email me at [levengood.d@northwest.sparcc.org](mailto:levengood.d@northwest.sparcc.org).





# Northwest News

*Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education*

## Curriculum News

### Debora Clark, Director of Instruction

#### Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Recent legislation by the Ohio Legislature strengthened the longstanding Third-Grade Guarantee, once called the Fourth-Grade Guarantee, to give a greater emphasis to reading instruction and intervention in the early grades. Through this initiative, school districts and community schools will diagnose reading deficiencies in students in kindergarten through grade three, create individualized reading improvement and monitoring plans, and provide intensive reading interventions.

School districts are required to annually evaluate students in kindergarten through third grade to determine if they are reading as well as they should be. Students are on-track if they are reading at grade-level, based on the expectations of the previous end-of-year standards.

A student identified as not on-track is not reading at grade level, based on the expectations of the previous end-of-year standards. If a child's reading skills are not on-track, the school will develop a reading improvement and monitoring plan which addresses the student's unique reading problems. The school will monitor the student's reading plan throughout the year to ensure the student's reading skills progress. Northwest Local offers various interventions for students who are not-on-track in the area of reading, including Title I Tutoring, an after school reading program, small group reading instruction, and summer school.



**Advancing to Fourth Grade:** Except for students with special circumstances, students must meet a minimum score on the state reading test to move on to fourth grade. In the 2013-2014 school year, a student must score 392 for advancement to fourth grade. The students will have two opportunities to attain this score on the Grade 3 Reading OAA, once in the fall and again in the spring. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please contact the classroom teacher or building principal.

#### Race to the Top Update

As we continue to move forward with year four of our Race to the Top Grant we are focused on completing the goals outlined in the district's scope of work. Certified staff members continue to develop clear learning targets and align assessments with Ohio's New Learning Standards (ONLS). The district has begun the process of implementing Ohio's Instructional Improvement System (IIS) Thinkgate. The IIS will enable teachers to accelerate and personalize the education experience by providing the following features:

Online access to curriculum and standards

Curriculum customization/differentiation

Easy to use paper, online and clicker test administration options that teachers can use to determine what progress students have made and what help they need

Data analysis and reporting capabilities

A portfolio of every student's work

During the 2014-2015 school year Ohio will replace the Ohio Academic Assessments (OAAs) in third through eighth grade with online assessments. The following year the Ohio Graduation Tests will be replaced with online end-of-course exams and new graduation requirements. The district online assessment committee has completed an assessment of the district's current technology infrastructure and equipment, determining areas of need. The district has been selected to participate in the field-testing of Ohio's new online assessments, which will occur this spring. The data gathered from the field-testing will enable the district to continue to prepare for implementation and the students to experience the process of online testing.

# Traditional Textbooks or Electronic Textbooks?

Debora Clark

As the English Language Arts committee examines curricular materials for adoption during the 2014-2015 school year, they are asking many questions including, “Should the district purchase traditional or electronic textbooks?” As we consider the fact that our students have never experienced life without a computer, a cell phone, tablets, and other electronic devices, the answer appears easy – digital textbooks. However, there are many factors to consider when determining an answer to this question. The first consideration involves the daily access students have to technology in their classrooms. The district has not initiated one-to-one computing, and despite the computer labs located in every school building, our students still do not have access to a computer at school on a daily basis. To move forward with a one-to-one initiative would be a costly endeavor for the district, and it would have to be phased in over a five-year time frame. We have considered implementing “bring your own” device to school. However that presents another litany of issues including maintenance of those devices, security on the network, and the dilemma of the student who does not own an electronic device.



The district could purchase a classroom set of traditional textbooks for school use with the expectation that the students would access the digital content from home. This option presents two areas of concern: students who do not have access to a computer at home and the cost of the digital subscription. We have researched the cost of digital textbooks in relation to the cost of traditional textbooks. The cost of a traditional textbook ranges from \$65 per book to \$90 per book. The digital textbook costs range from \$20 to \$30 per student

annually. The district keeps textbooks for 6-8 years, so if a traditional textbook is purchased the cost is a one-time expense. If a digital textbook is purchased annually, the cost over eight years could be as high as \$240. The district has made a commitment to be fiscally responsible while providing a quality academic education as part of our strategic plan. Therefore, with that commitment in mind, the district will be moving forward with the plan to purchase traditional textbooks that are supported with digital presentation materials, online assessment tools, and writing components. The district is committed to providing quality academic education to meet the needs of our students while remaining fiscally responsible with our purchasing decisions.

## Senior Citizens’ Breakfast scheduled for March 20

The Northwest Local School District will host a free breakfast for senior citizens in the high school commons Thursday, March 20, at 8:00 a.m. Please join us for a few hours of fellowship as we share the good news about our schools. There is no charge for this event, but reservations are appreciated. Please RSVP to Pat Chevrier by March 14, 2014, at 330-854-2291 or mail in this form with your name and phone number. We look forward to seeing you.

NORTHWEST SENIOR CITIZENS’ BREAKFAST	
MARCH 20, 2014	
<hr/>	
<hr/>	<hr/>
Names of persons attending	Phone number
<hr/>	
Return to: Northwest Local Schools, Attn: Pat Chevrier, 2309 Locust St., S. , Canal Fulton, OH 44614	



# Northwest News

*Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education*

## ***Promise Made***

## **✓ *Promise Kept***

Keep Northwest Local Schools intact



Begin the replacement of outdated textbooks



Begin the upgrade of outdated technology



Eliminate outstanding debt and remove the district from the designation of Fiscal Caution



Reinstate extra-curricular and co-curricular activities



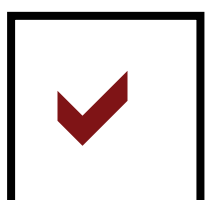
Provide professional development for all staff in every classroom



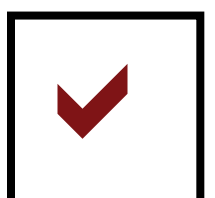
Offer all-day, every day kindergarten for all children



Halt additional staff reductions



Provide fiscal stability





May  
6

Promises Made  
Promises Kept

Northwest Schools

EARNED Income Tax

*In 2010 we promised that passage of the “Your plan. Your vote.” 1% earned income tax would not bring everything back for the schools. The following items have NOT been brought back:*

<b>Promise Made</b>	<b>✓ Promise Kept</b>
No rehiring of staff who were laid off due to the financial crisis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No reduction in class size	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No reduction in school fees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No increase in the reduced number of credits required for graduation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No reinstatement of vocational programs or electives lost through reductions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# Northwest News

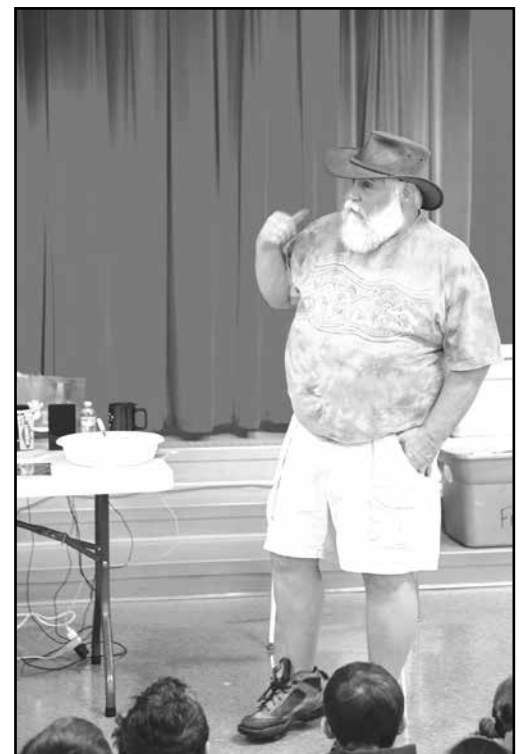
*Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education*

## Northwest Primary Multicultural Day



Africa: Sogbety Diomande

Northwest Primary School held its annual Multicultural Day January 17.



Australia: Mark Kelly



Frontiersmen: Bob Keller and Craig Rearick



India: Mrs. Nair

## 2000 Grad returns to Stark County in Irish Dance

Justin Boros will appear in "Rhythm in the Night: The Irish Dance Spectacular" Monday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Canton Palace Theater. This performance is a part of a 20-city tour across the Eastern U.S. Justin toured with Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance" for several years before creating, producing and performing in his own Irish dance show.

As a 15-year-old high school student, Justin saw "Lord of the Dance" on PBS and was enthralled with Irish dancing. Justin credit's Northwest's Nancy Ebner for referring him to the Tim O'Hare Dance Studio and helping him attain his dream. As a member of the basketball team, he returned home from games and went to his parents' basement where he practiced into the early hours of the morning. When on a family vacation in Florida, he took an audition tape to the dance captains of "Lord of the Dance," and he was hired the next day. Now Justin returns to share his passion for Irish dance with his friends and family. Ticket's for the March 17th performance are available through the Canton Palace Theater. For more information about the show, go to [RhythmInthenight.com](http://RhythmInthenight.com). Justin's mother, Janet, was a teacher at the elementary and Stinson.





# Together United: Rebuild our Field

The Northwest Local School District's stadium field has become unplayable at times and frequently unsafe. As a result, games, band shows and other events have been cancelled or moved to another site. The Northwest District needs a safe, playable field for our students and our community. In response, concerned residents have formed a committee to study the feasibility of a full, synthetic multi-purpose turf field to replace the existing grass field. Thanks to the generosity of several corporate level sponsors and the support of private citizens, this project is possible. This project will be privately funded and will not depend on taxpayers' dollars. With the installation of turf, the field, which currently is used by the band, the boys' and girls' soccer teams and the football team, will become available for community use.

All contributions are tax deductible under Section 170 of the IRS code and in conjunction with the Athletic Charitable Committee, EIN number 26-2392955, a section 501 (c) (3) organization. You can make your donation by check and mail it to T.U.R.F., P.O. Box 222, Canal Fulton, OH 44614. You can also charge the donation to your credit card by clicking on the T.U.R.F. link on the project website: [www.nwturfproject.org](http://www.nwturfproject.org).

## 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:

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014**

**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**1:00 p.m.-7:00 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.

### Community Day: March 2

Plan to attend the Community Day Winter Carnival on March 2 from 1-5 p.m. in the Northwest High School Commons. You can expect good music by our students, a variety of community vendors and the Sousa Band, which will perform at 3 p.m.

Contact us to compete in the chili cook-off! Also, community groups are invited to reserve a table for \$35 by Feb. 24. With the donation you will receive a sponsor sign, table space (we supply the table) and a business card-sized ad in a future *Northwest News*. Please call us at 330-854-2291 to make reservations or ask questions.

Local dentist, Dr. Michael Wasco, and his co-workers are hosting a Toothbrush Exchange. They will give you a new toothbrush in exchange for your old one (limit one per person), and they will hold a contest for the dirtiest toothbrush. The owner of that toothbrush will receive a free Sonicare electric toothbrush. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your appetite. And your toothbrush.

**Please mark your calendars:**

***Community Day Winter  
Carnival is scheduled for  
March 2, from 1-5 p.m.,  
at Northwest High School.***





**CANAL FULTON YMCA**

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

[ymcastark.org](http://ymcastark.org)  
330-830-6275

**PLAY  
HERE**



**Before and After School Fall 2013**

- Children grades K –5 enrolled in Northwest Schools
- NW Schools will transport Stinson students between buildings. Program site is NW Primary School's Library
- Hours: 7:00 am – 8:55 am, 3:20 pm – 6:30 pm
- Care available only on scheduled school days

**Fun Club (Jackson Local School days off)**

- For children grades K-5 enrolled in Before and After School Child Care, located at the David Y in Jackson.

Hours: 6:45 am – 6:30 pm

**Contact Lyndsay Gatto for more information:**  
330-830-6275 or [lgatto@ymcastark.org](mailto:lgatto@ymcastark.org)

**IT'S NOT  
JUST KIDS  
STUFF**



**Adult Group Exercise Programs**

- Held at SALT BOX Ministry building
- Come to any or all classes for one low fee per 7 week session
- Call for session dates
- Yoga and Cardio Combo

**SilverSneakers Exercise Classes**

- Held at Northwest Stark Senior Center
- Classes on Monday & Friday mornings from 9:15-10:15am

**Contact Pam Leddin for more info:**  
330-830-6275 or [pleddin@ymcastark.org](mailto:pleddin@ymcastark.org)

**Although, the kids stuff is awesome, too!**

Financial assistance available.

# Northwest News

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## WINTER SPORTS TEAMS



**BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL:**

(L-R): Coach Mike Yokum, Manager Matt Brigham, Coach Andy Cocklin, Jacob Hyrne, Andrew Colon, Chad Hill, Michael Zervos, Johnny Masters, Jackson Schultz, Nathan Haut, Jeremy Mundell, Tristan Mullane, Cory Earnsberger, Ryan Colby, Manager Jake Penrod, Coach Dave Cooper, and Head Coach Mike Lower.



**VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL:**

Front Row (L-R): Kayla Ley, Makenzie Boecker, Jessica Boecker, Madison Worden, and Haley Macko. Back Row (L-R): Coach Erick Stookey, Kirsten Mitchen, Amanda Crites, Jordan Smith, LeAndra Martin, Taylor Heard, Leah Luhning, Sarah Butti, and Head Coach Donnie Schenz.



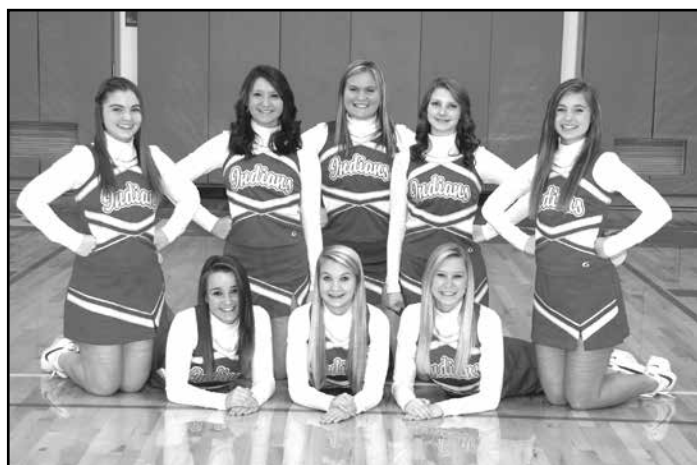
**JUNIOR VARSITY:**

(L-R): Coach Mike Yokum, Brayden Penrod, Coach Andy Cocklin, Jacob Hyrne, Nathan Booth, Adam Haswell, Michael Zervos, Alex Vales, Michael Roman, Matt Fennell, Jeff Shimko, Tyler Devenport, Nick Neitz, Brian Belles, Cory Earnsberger, Austin Cundiff, Coach Dave Cooper, and Head Coach Mike Lower.



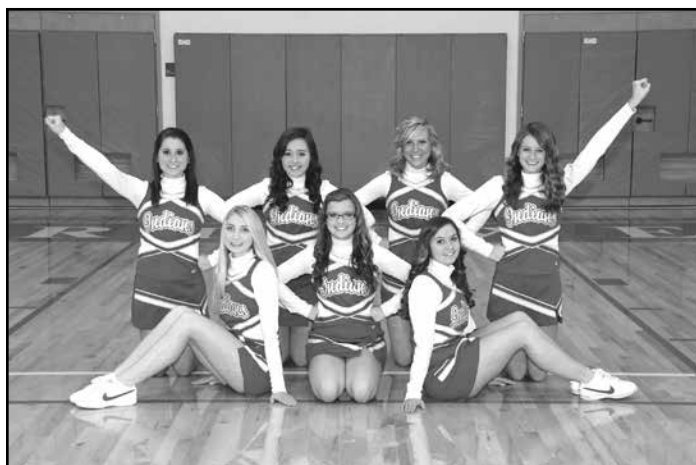
**JUNIOR VARSITY:**

Front Row (L-R): Bailey Bloom, Ashley Kittinger, and Morgan Rearick. Back Row (L-R): Coach Chelsea Raines, Kaylynn Boak, Alayna Penrod, Maria Kolinoff, Abbie Swaino, Alyssa Strabley, and Chara Kelleman.



**VARSITY CHEERLEADERS:**

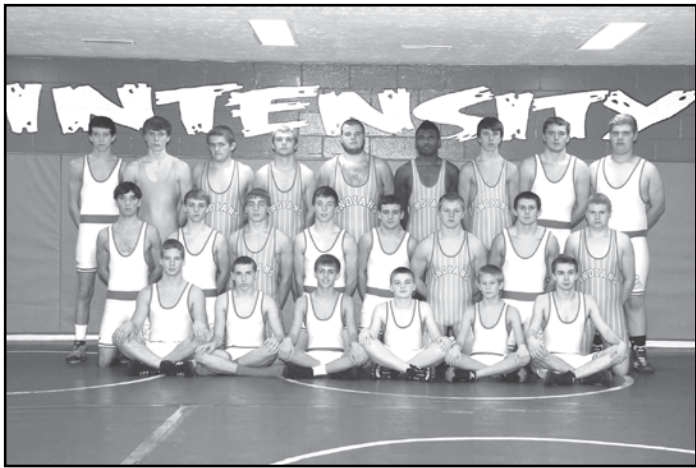
Front Row (L-R): Alyssa Beaudette-Barbitta, Kelsey Kincaid, and Abby Cundiff. Back Row (L-R): Cassidy Spencer, Molly Hollenbaugh, Brooke West, Breanne Kushnir, and Kelly Walker.



**JUNIOR VARSITY CHEERLEADERS:**

Front Row (L-R): Gracyn Loper, Jenna Hutzell, and Aubrey Walker. Back Row (L-R): Hannah Brotherton, Molly Ogg, Taylor Lawrence, and Lauren Stover.





**VARSITY WRESTLING:**

Front Row (L-R): Matt Oakes, Shawn Nemet, Hunter Kosco, Josh Harless, Josh Smith and Brandon Rolinson. Middle Row (L-R): Mason Lloyd, Brian Hull, Nathan Gissinger, Dalton Cox, Chris Jackson, Kyle Myers, Chuck Kirkpatrick and Jacob Klein. Back Row (L-R): Zach Earnsberger, David Fitzwater, Kyle Brosch, Austin Slusser, Jerrad Cox, Milton Greek, James Ayers, Tim Fitzwater, and Trevor Coughlin.



Takedown Club Hall of Fame inductees for 2014 are Kyle Haddox (2007), Travis Stroh (2006) and Randy Ross (1968).

# ACC News

**Calendar of Upcoming Events–**

- Diamond Club Steak Fry at Portage Lakes Eagles in Feb. or March.
- Plan to attend the Softball Steak Fry March 8th at Canal Fulton VFW..

**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

- ACC – First Sunday of each month, 5:00 p.m. at HS Commons
- Runners Club – First Sunday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. at HS in room 107
- Touchdown Club –First Monday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. at VFW
- Takedown Club – First Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. at VFW
- Northwest Cheer Association – First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. in Home Ec @ HS
- Lady Indians Basketball Boosters – Second Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m. @ Middle School Library
- Lady Indians Soccer – Second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. @ Middle School Library
- Girls Softball Boosters – Third Wednesday of each month @ 6:00 at Grayce Ann’s Family Restaurant
- Diamond Club – First Sunday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at HS Commons ([www.nwindiansbaseball.com](http://www.nwindiansbaseball.com))

## Northwest ACC First Annual Monte Carlo Night

**Saturday, March 22**  
**Massillon Eagles**  
**7 p.m.-11 p.m.**

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
 Tickets are \$15, which includes a light supper and beverages.

All proceeds go to the Northwest Athletic Charitable Committee to support Northwest student athletes.

Massillon Eagles is located at 303 Weirich Blvd. NW, Massillon. For more information, contact John Markus (330-801-0252) or Aaron Schley (330-217-7041).





# Northwest News

*Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education*

## R.G. Drage CTC: Getting a Jump on a Career

One of the options offered to Northwest High School students is the R.G. Drage Career Technical Center. The career center offers 20 programs, 17 in the building on Richville Drive in Perry Township and two at Louisville High School. Entertainment Productions, a new program, will be offered at Northwest High School for 2014-2015.

Drage Career Technical Center focuses on developing programs that will prepare students for work in their field. In fact, 42 students are currently employed in a job directly related to their field of study. These students attend classes for their morning academics and then leave for work. With the development of oil and gas drilling and processing operations in Northwest Ohio, Drage CTC has adapted several programs to meet the industry's needs. Director Cynthia Smythe points out, "We are dedicated to giving our students every opportunity to succeed in the job market and/or transition successfully into post-secondary education."

Northwest is proud of the young people who have chosen to pursue their career ambitions at R.G. Drage CTC.



**Abigail Shuttleworth**

### *Culinary Arts*

Abigail says the culinary program caught her attention, and "I've loved the program ever since!" She believes Drage opens up opportunities for high school students before and after they graduate. Abigail plans to work for a year after high school and then consider college.



**Ainslie Hawthorn**

### *Culinary Arts*

Ainslie chose Culinary Arts because she loves to cook. She believes Drage gives her opportunities after you graduate, including college. She plans to go to Sullivan University next fall, and she would like to have her own restaurant one day.



**Macey Juersivich**

### *Dental Assistant*

Macey chose the Dental Assistant program because she has always enjoyed seeing "perfect smiles on people's faces." She enjoys her lab and the wonderful people she has met there. Macey plans to go to Stark State for Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) and hygiene, and she wants to work in an office as a dental assistant.



**Molleigh Crine**

### *Graphic Communications*

Molleigh chose to attend Drage to further her photography skills and obtain more experience in graphic design. She has enjoyed meeting people with similar interests at Drage, and she plans to attend Miami University as a Studio Art major with Arts Management as a minor.



**Mariah Gromofsky**

### *Medical and Administrative Services*

Mariah says the best thing about R.G. Drage is that "you get to learn a skill that you can use in life." She plans to go to a technical college to continue her education after graduation, and she plans to pursue a secretarial job.



**Edward Ayers**

### *Metal Fabrication*

Edward enjoys working with his hands, and he thinks Drage offers him a great opportunity for a good job.

**Matt Durkin**

### *Metal Fabrication*

Matt chose this program because he wants to some day have his own welding rig to work on the oil and gas pipeline. He enjoys Drage because he has the opportunity to work with his hands on projects he finds interesting.

