

Northwest News

February 2012: Issue 15



Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

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We Want Your Thoughts FOR THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Join the Northwest Local Schools Board of Education for a community focus group to discuss the search for the new superintendent.

Community Focus Group
Feb. 27, 2012 | 7:00 p.m. | Northwest High School

Share your thoughts on what you want to see in the next superintendent of Northwest. A board meeting will immediately follow the focus group. **For more information, contact 330-854-2291.**

The Search for a New Superintendent

The day after Superintendent Bill Stetler announced his resignation, a state-wide search for a new superintendent began with the district accepting applications. The application deadline was Feb. 10.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Interviews Begin:	February 20
Reach Decision by:	March 19
Employment Date:	August 1

Superintendent Bill Stetler to Leave Northwest

After four years as superintendent, Bill Stetler announced at the January board meeting that he will be leaving the Northwest Local School District at the end of his contract on July 31.

“I came to Northwest at a trying time for the district and the community,” Stetler said. “Thanks to the hard work of our board, administrators and staff, as well as the support of our residents, the district is now financially stable with a solid strategic plan in place to move it forward. This is the right time to change leadership.”



Superintendent
Bill Stetler

Continued... see STETLER on page 3



Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

Board of Education



Committed to an Open & Transparent District

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

Board of Education Welcomes Two New Members



John Hexamer and Steve Jones sworn in as new board of education members

At the January meeting, two new Northwest Board of Education members, John Hexamer and Steve Jones, were sworn into office by Lawrence Township Trustee, Marvin Hardgrove. These new board members bring a wealth of experience to their positions since both are retired from administrative positions with the school district.

Rita Gearhart will be presented with the Ohio School Boards Association's Award of Achievement at the regional spring conference in March. The Award of Achievement is given to school board members in recognition of their commitment to training and leadership activities on their boards of education and in region and statewide OSBA activities.

Northwest Schools Kindergarten Registration

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 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.

Stetler

Continued from page 1

In 2008 the district was put into fiscal caution by the Ohio Department of Education. In June 2011 the district was removed from this designation after the passage of an income tax issue and a renewal levy in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

“Bill has provided guidance through some of most difficult times for this district, and he will be greatly missed,” said Northwest Board of Education President Jim Gindlesberger. “I can speak for the board when I say that we appreciate his service and leadership of this great district.”

Under Bill’s leadership, Northwest has been rated “Excellent” for the past three years, refinanced all of the bonds sold in 2002 for a savings of \$1.5 million and instituted a community-driven strategic plan to ensure continuous improvement. The district will also see new and renovated school buildings at no additional cost to the community.

“As long as I live, the Indian Nation will be a part of me,” Stetler said. “I am grateful for my time here and the people I have been blessed to meet and work with on a daily basis. They deeply care about the children, and are truly the community’s greatest asset.”

Stinson-Teachers Plan “Tribe Time” to Meet Student Needs

Fifth-grade reading teachers at Stinson Elementary use their weekly planning periods to create special lessons that meet the needs of their students. Each teacher takes on a different lesson, and students are placed in the appropriate classroom based upon his or her needs. The classroom time has been named “Tribe Time,” and the students overwhelmingly love this opportunity for “differentiated instruction.” Students praised the chance to have different teachers explain material with a variety of methods, free from the more traditional use of worksheets.

Fifth-grade reading teachers, MaryBeth Manns, Amy Lower, Wendy Reynolds, and Lisa Baldwin, developed



Mrs. MaryBeth Manns and Evelyn Butler

“Tribe Time” in order to meet the challenges facing their students on reading achievement tests. Mrs. Baldwin explains, “We were all in agreement that we teach to ‘the middle’ and not always to our top students. We give lots of support to our LD and LDT kids, but felt we were not reaching all of our students and their particular needs in each given area in reading.”

According to MaryBeth Manns, students are pretested to determine their weaknesses in certain areas, and teachers create lessons to help students better understand the challenging material.

Through “Tribe Time,” teachers are able to challenge all students. Mrs. Baldwin elaborates: “We each take an area to teach, and we shuffle the kids to the groups they need to be in. Our tutors have been great as well; they even take a group so we can break the kids into even smaller groups. For those kids that do well in all areas on the assessment, we put them in an ‘enriched’ group and they usually do a creative writing piece or something else.”



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CANAL FULTON

Lions Club

MEETINGS:

Canal Fulton Community Center

Second & Fourth Tuesday

6:30 PM



CANAL FULTON Parks & Recreation

Canal Way Center

330-854-6835

www.cityofcanalfulton-oh.gov



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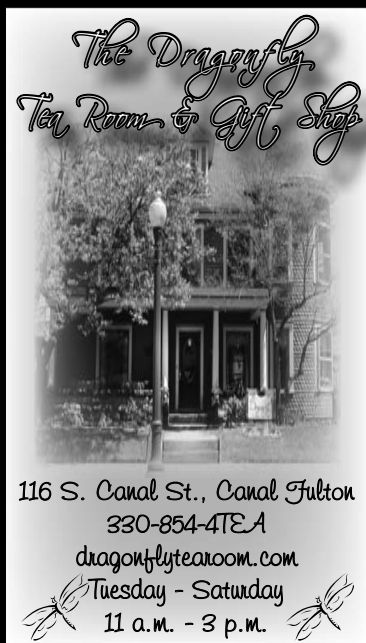
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Canal Fulton, OH 44614

330-854-1025



of Community Day!

"Welcome to Historic Canal Fulton" Sign Brick Sale

Businesses, organizations or individuals may leave a legacy on the sign or on patio pavers. The sign is located at the northeast corner of Cherry and Locust Street.

Contact: Leslie Wyman at 330-352-9518

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FELLOWSHIP ON THE SECOND
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

FIND US AT WWW.CFMUMS.COM/HOME

Northwest High School



"The only way to truly find yourself, is to
lose yourself in the service of others"

- M. Ghandi

Northwest Local Schools Library

High School Scholastic
Book Fair
March 3-11

Visit us at
<http://www.northwest.sparcc.org/> and click on
"Programs" then "Library Media Center"

NORTHWEST JUNIOR BASEBALL & SOFTBALL LEAGUE



Northwest Sports Complex
8845 Erie Ave NW
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

Randy Hearn, Director
330-353-4975



NORTHWEST YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING



Northwest Sports Complex
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jsbowman@sssnet.com

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Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

Third Annual Community Day Winter Carnival

The Northwest Local Schools held its Third Annual Community Day Winter Carnival on Sunday, January 29, at Northwest High School. A fun time was had by all! We wish to express special thanks to these donors:

ACC
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Scentsy
Snap Fitness
Stinson Betterment League
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Primary Students Introduced to String Instruments

The String Trio of “SymphonyLand” performed for the children of Northwest Primary on January 31, introducing students to the world of the symphony in a fun, an interactive and a musical way. Students learned about the violin, cello and viola, and had an opportunity to listen to each instrument played separately as well as together. The performance, one of the many programs offered by the Canton Symphony, is a part of the ongoing Arts Series in the Northwest Local School District.



Canton Symphony Musician Leads Primary Students

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL
Puffenberger Hall
8580 Erie Ave. NW
Canal Fulton, Ohio

Seussical THE MUSICAL

Friday, March 30 • 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 31 • 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 1 • 2:00 pm

Adults and children of all ages are invited to join us for one of America's most performed shows. SEUSSICAL is a fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza!

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**\$8.00 Adult
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Reserved Seating
Pre-sale tickets available at Northwest High School or by calling 330-854-5885
Tickets available at the door based on availability.
For full details, please visit our school website at... www.northwest.sparcc.org



**OPENING NIGHT
FRONT ROW CENTER SEATS
AT THE SEUSSICAL**

A live musical presented by Northwest Schools Friday, March 30th. Win the **Silent Auction** sponsored by the **Friends of the Canal Fulton Public Library**

Get the V.I.P. treatment:

- royal transportation
- exclusive seating
- personal escort to seats

A fun-filled evening for a good cause.
Proceeds to the Canal Fulton Public Library for needed furniture & cast party for an awesome job!

Efficiency Recognized in Northwest Transportation Department

The Northwest Local Transportation Department is to be congratulated for being recognized as the third most efficient school district in Stark County in terms of routing. This determination is based upon Ohio Department of Education data that studies the number of riders per bus; in essence, efficiency generally results from 1.) the scheduling of buses so that they are full and 2.) a scheduling practice that allows for multiple trips. Transportation Coordinator Ray Gesaman also notes that two new buses are now in operation, bus #8 and bus #13.



Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

Learning is Key in Northwest District



Debora Clark

The Northwest School District is in the midst of a three-year staff development program geared toward improving learning in the classroom. Leading this effort is Director of Instruction Debora Clark. She says that the district has merged its participation in Race to the Top and the Ohio Improvement Process in order to meet this goal. The first step is to examine what the Ohio Department of Education calls “content standards.”

“We are focused on how we can help every student reach his or her highest potential,” explains Ms. Clark. “In studying the ‘content standards,’ we

are identifying the key material and the concepts that students should master. Next year we will look at the methods being used to teach 21st century skills and develop and refine common assessments. During the third year of this program, the information gathered from assessments will be used to gauge student learning and meet individual student needs. We are determined to give our students the skills to apply the information that they have learned.”

This three-year program truly summarizes Ms. Clark’s mission in her ongoing position as Director of Instruction: “I truly believe that Northwest Local has the capacity to become a premier learning organization. We are moving forward with our commitment by examining and adjusting our curriculum and instructional practices to ensure that every student in our district is educated, motivated, and inspired to reach his or her highest potential.”



Northwest Primary Multicultural Day

Students “visited” the seven continents and tasted food that is prevalent in other cultures, and the day concluded with an African drum and dance presentation.

Northwest Primary School appreciates the efforts and donations of the following individuals:

Australia: **Mrs. LaRicca**

Europe: **Dr. John Stergiades**

South America: **Jadgesh Ramjit**

Africa: **Sogbety Diomande and Dan Susany**

North America: **Bob Keller and Craig Reirick**

Practicing Fiscal Responsibility

As the May 2010 election grew near, the Northwest Local Board of Education and administration made a promise of fiscal responsibility to the community. The board of education also passed a resolution reaffirming this position and the phrase “Fiscally Responsible” is now displayed on many of the district’s printed materials. The district continually looks at new and innovative ways to reduce costs, such as undertaking an energy conservation project and refinancing bonds, all in the efforts to be “fiscally responsible.”

The Ohio Department of Education requires that the board of education files, semi-annually in April and October, a five year budgetary forecast. The forecast, which is used to determine the fiscal well-being of a district, is the tool that led the Department to place our district into fiscal caution and eventually to release it from that designation. Due to the Northwest community’s support and the district’s frugality, our five year forecast is in much better fiscal shape than the majority of schools. Presently we are projecting a positive year-end cash balance through the 2014-2015 fiscal year, a projection based on the assumption that no new taxes will be passed during this time.

The outlook for the end of fiscal year 2015-2016 is not as bright. At that time our present projections show a negative cash balance for the district of almost \$800,000. This deficit is due to anticipated further reductions in state funding and some increases in operating expenses. The Northwest Board of Education has reviewed the information contained in the five year forecast and made the decision to pass a resolution now that directs the administration to reduce annual expenditures for fiscal year 2012-2013 by \$300,000. The administration will review alternative, innovative, and efficient ways of operating the district in order to eliminate the potential deficit in 2016 without interrupting or affecting the educational process for the students. The school year 2015-2016 seems like a long way off, but saving dollars now will prevent the need for more dramatic action in the future.

Athletic Charitable Committee

Supporting Athletics in our local Northwest community

Calendar of Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 14, 2012 –

Runners Club:
Give of Your Heart Aultman Blood Drive
3:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the HS Parking Lot

FEBRUARY 18, 2012 –

Diamond Club: Steak Fry
4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Portage Lakes Eagles

FEBRUARY 21, 2012 –

Runners Club: Dairy Queen Fundraiser
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Canal Fulton

MARCH 10, 2012 –

Girls Softball: Steak Fry
4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at VFW

MARCH 24, 2012 –

Diamond Club: Poker Tournament
VFW in Akron
All proceeds benefit the Diamond Club

SPRING 2012 –

Touchdown Club Drawdown
at Hillside – *more info to come*

MAY 12, 2012 –

Diamond Club: Scotch Doubles Bowling
6:00 p.m. at Charger Lanes in Norton

Calendar of Meetings

ACC –

1st Sunday of each month
5:00 p.m. in the High School Commons

RUNNERS CLUB –

1st Sunday of each month
4:00 p.m. in the High School Room 107

TOUCHDOWN CLUB –

1st Monday of each month
7:00 p.m. at VFW

TAKEDOWN CLUB –

1st Tuesday of each month
7:00 p.m. at VFW

NORTHWEST CHEER ASSOCIATION –

1st Tuesday of each month
6:30 p.m. in Home Ec at High School

LADY INDIANS BASKETBALL BOOSTERS –

2nd Monday of each month
6:00 p.m. at Middle School Library

LADY INDIANS SOCCER –

2nd Thursday of each month
6:30 p.m. at Middle School Library

GIRLS SOFTBALL BOOSTERS –

3rd Wednesday of each month
6:00 p.m. at Grayce Ann’s Family Restaurant

DIAMOND CLUB –

Next meeting is Feb 13th
6:30 p.m. in the High School Commons
www.nwindiansbaseball.com



Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

Athletic Facilities will benefit from Construction

The facilities project, funded by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission, will provide excellent opportunities for the children of our school district. First-class gymnasiums in the high school and middle school along with the high school auxiliary gym will be available for use by student athletes as well as community groups participating in recreational activities. In addition, the project will provide an improved locker room for visitors. The upgrading of the high school baseball field should solve the drainage problems that have plagued the facility in the past.

Athletic Director Gary Woods praises the improvements because, not only will they be advantageous to the district's children, they will also make the school district more appealing to other schools wishing to schedule athletic events. Woods says that having 3 gyms will also provide flexibility in scheduling middle school events and high school practices. Another advantage to the new facilities is the likelihood that the district will become more attractive as we continue to look for membership in an athletic conference.

While we appreciate the long-term benefits, we recognize that construction projects will lead to some short-term inconveniences. Because the new high school and middle school gyms will not be available until next November, all middle school and high school volleyball practices and home matches must

be held in the high school auxiliary gym. The reliance on this one gym will require "creative scheduling" of matches and practices, and the auxiliary gym offers seating for only about 250 people.

Open gym for basketball players, which takes place in the summer, will also be held in the auxiliary gym. Because of the demands of scheduling during construction, no community use will be available. The new performance high school gym is scheduled to open on time for the winter season.

The middle school gym will close in mid-March as renovations begin, so physical education classes will be held outside or in the annex. No asbestos removal will take place until all students are out of the building. This slows the process down a bit, but student safety is always foremost in our district.

The geothermal wells for the middle school have been placed in a portion of the outfield of the high school baseball field. As a result, all baseball games will be scheduled as away games this spring, and the re-opening of the field has been set for spring 2013. Geothermal wells buried beneath the practice field will also limit flexibility with outdoor practices and contests.

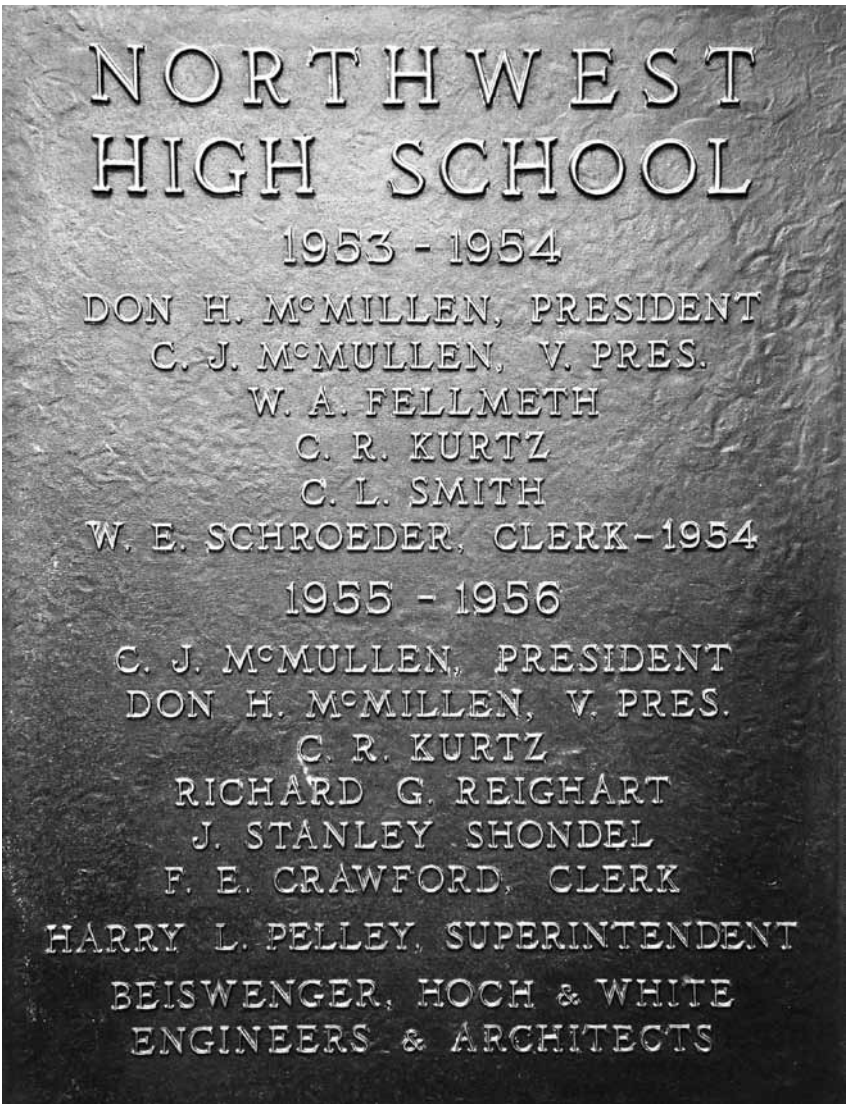
This construction project represents an exciting step forward for Northwest Local, and all of these challenges will be worth the inconvenience when the district has facilities that are state of the art.

Facilities Project Progressing as Scheduled



History of Clinton, Canal Fulton and Northwest Schools to be Preserved in New Gym Site

The site of the new high school gym will feature artifacts from past school buildings once located in the district. The school district recently acquired the 1855 cornerstone from the Canal Fulton School from Roger White of R. White and Sons Excavating. Over a decade ago, White cleaned out the area which held the old bus garage and the Intermediate School, and he took some dirt and rocks back to his shop in Clinton where he intended to use the material as fill dirt. When rains washed the fill, he discovered the cornerstone, which will be set in the entrance of the new gym where it will be covered with glass and lighted. The gym entrance will also have a rendering of the 1910 Clinton School displayed as well as the bronze plaque that hung in the first Northwest High School which opened in 1953.



Northwest High School Plaque



1855 Cornerstone of Canal Fulton School

Facilities Project Progressing as Scheduled



Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

THREE FOOTBALL PLAYERS RECOGNIZED AT STATE LEVEL

Three Northwest football players earned recognition at the state level last fall, and their successes have allowed them to continue playing football in college. These athletes are **Ronnie Beers**, **J.C. Pawlyk** and **Nick Riley**, all of whom played football for the Northwest Indians last fall. **Coach Vic Whiting** says he will miss these three young men and their senior teammates.



Ronnie Beers

A three-year two-way starter, was named “Most Valuable Player,” set a single season scoring record of 200 points and joined the Single Season 1000 Yard Rushing Club with 172 carries for 1,078 yards and 32 touchdowns. Beers also joined the Career 1000 Yard Receiving Club with 128 catches for 1,350 yards and 15 touchdowns. Named Second Team All-Ohio, Beers has several Division II offers, and he is trying to decide which school is his best fit. Coach Whiting calls him “an outstanding leader on the field, in the weight room, in the school, and in the community.”



J.C. Pawlyk

Named Third Team All-Ohio, wide receiver and free safety, J.C. Pawlyk joined the high school’s Career 1000 Yard Receiving Club with 94 catches for 1,340 yards and 14 touchdowns. Recognized by the local media, he also won the Northwest Defensive Back Award. Coach Whiting says, “He had eye-opening plays on both sides of the ball.” Like Beers, Pawlyk is considering a variety of Division II colleges.



Nick Riley

Quarterback Nick Riley won the Northwest Offensive Back Award and the Tomahawk Leadership Award. He set the school’s single season passing record, completing 210 passes of 407 attempts for 2,531 yards and 26 touchdowns. Riley also set the career passing record with 452 completions of 814 attempts for 5,472 yards and 48 touchdowns. He was named Honorable Mention All-Ohio. Coach Whiting praises Riley’s leadership and says, “Nick has Division I size and ability.” At this time Riley is playing basketball, and he is going on college visits before making his final decision.