

# Northwest News

December 2012: Issue 20



*Fiscally Responsible... Quality Academic Education*

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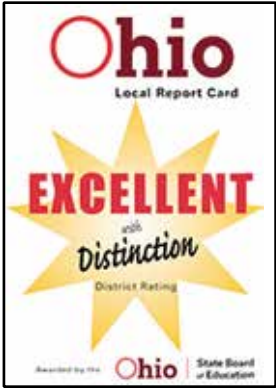
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## NORTHWEST LOCAL RATED EXCELLENT WITH DISTINCTION

After three years of being rated “Excellent” by the Ohio Department of Education, the Northwest Local School District has achieved the highest possible rating of “Excellent with Distinction.” The overall rating is determined by evaluations in four general areas: the percentage of state indicators met, Performance Index Score, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results and Value-Added rating. Northwest Local met 100 percent of the 26 state indicators that cover testing, attendance and graduation rates and earned a Performance Indicator of 102.5. Of the 610 school districts in the State of Ohio, only 138 earned an “Excellent with Distinction” rating. Northwest Local is proud to be a part of this elite group.



Dr. Mike Shreffler expressed his appreciation of the team effort: “The rating of ‘Excellent with Distinction’ is a reflection of the collective effort and hard work of our students, staff and supportive community. The board of education, administration, teachers, paraprofessional staff, students and community have worked together to make this achievement possible. Everyone has worked to support the goals of our strategic plan, and this rating indicates our commitment to the children of this school district.”

*Excellent with Distinction continued on page 2*

Mark your calendars:  
Community Day Winter Carnival is scheduled  
for January 27, from 1-5 p.m., at  
Northwest High School.



# 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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*Excellent with Distinction Continued from page 1*

Northwest teachers set a goal for themselves to guide their students to success. According to Director of Instruction Debora Clark, "The staff focused on the process of deconstructing the content standards to provide clarity about what students must know and be able to do. When teachers take the time to analyze each standard, identifying essential concepts and skills, the result is more effective instructional planning, assessment and student learning. The staff remains focused on the district's mission to educate, motivate and inspire each student to achieve his or her highest potential."

In May 2010 the Northwest Local District promised voters a quality academic program and fiscal responsibility. For the 2011-2012 school year, Northwest's per pupil expenditure was \$7959.14, while the state average annual expenditure per pupil was \$10,696. The rating of "Excellent with Distinction" confirms our commitment.

## Stinson Recognized for Academic Growth

Stinson Principal Lori Mariani has received a letter from Dr. Bobby Moore, Executive Director of the Battelle Institute, congratulating her and her staff for their students' success in last year's state testing program:

Congratulations! W.S. Stinson Elementary School has been identified as achieving very high growth during the 2011-2012 school year. Your building has the distinction of being in the top two percent of high achieving buildings in the state of Ohio.

The Northwest District is very proud of the achievements of Stinson's students and staff.

## School Closing Information

In the event of an emergency school closing, we will announce the information on the district website and on radio station, WHBC. If time permits, we will make an automated phone call to your home. For detailed information about our school closing policy, please go to our district website, [www.northwest.sparcc.org](http://www.northwest.sparcc.org), under "About Us: School Closing Information."



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WE'RE HERE  
FOR YOUR  
COMMUNITY



### Canal Fulton YMCA

[www.ymcastark.org](http://www.ymcastark.org)  
Group Exercise classes and  
Y Childcare Fall 2012

**Before & After School Childcare:**  
Children K-5th grade. For the  
2012/2013 school year @  
Northwest Primary School  
Financial assistance available

Contact: Lyndsay Gatto, Child Care Director  
330-830-6275 or [lgatto@ymcastark.org](mailto:lgatto@ymcastark.org)

The YMCA of Central Stark County is offering programs in the  
Northwest School District service area

Contact Pam Leddon for more information: 330-830-6275 or [pledton@ymcastark.org](mailto:pledton@ymcastark.org)

# Persons of Character

Every year each school in the Northwest School District chooses individuals to recognize as People of Character. Those being recognized embody the qualities stressed by Character Counts! in Stark County. They demonstrate the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. It's apparent from the building nominations that these individuals serve as strong role models.

## Northwest Primary School

## Ann Dingler

Ann Dingler exhibits all of the Six Pillars of Character associated with being a Person of Character. As a mother of four adopted children and as a teacher of young students in second grade, there have been many opportunities to witness these qualities. She shows a great deal of respect and fairness to her colleagues and students. In addition, she is trustworthy and discreet in regards to information shared, whether on a personal or a professional level. In her classroom, she exudes love and care for her students and is always in their corner. Her students know without a doubt that she cares about them! Ann volunteers to be on many committees at school that will benefit the overall staff and students at Northwest Primary School. This is an added responsibility for her already busy life! Ann has four adopted special needs children of her own, and she has been an advocate for them as well. Most importantly, Ann Dingler is a Person of Character because of the way she makes those around her feel. With all of the responsibilities and struggles that she has endured she still displays a positive attitude which touches those around her. I highly recommend Ann as a Stark County Person of Character for 2012.

## W.S. Stinson Intermediate School

## Pat Chevrier

Pat Chevrier has been nominated as our Person of Character because she has supported the staff of Northwest Schools with commitment and dedication for over 20 years. Her remarkably positive attitude has gotten the staff through all the difficult financial, staffing and leadership changes over the years. There is no person who knows more or can answer more questions on all the systems and procedures about the school district. Pat does all this with professionalism, patience and a smile.

## Northwest Middle School

## Deb Messner

Northwest Middle School chose to select Deb Messner as their Person of Character because of her dedication to our school district and the community. Deb was very involved in our levy efforts. She coordinated and attended many coffee meetings where community members could come to ask questions or share their concerns. Deb has also been a huge volunteer contributor to our Northwest Community celebrations that are held in January. She just started a group called Bountiful Gifts; this group was formed to help locate community resources for needy families in our district. Most recently Deb volunteered to be part of a new bullying program initiative that we are working to launch in our district and attended a two-day training workshop.

## Northwest High School

## Gina Huscusson

Mrs. Gina Huscusson 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. She is an outstanding teacher who challenges and supports her students to excel!



Deb Messner, Pat Chevrier, Gina Huscusson and Ann Dingler were recently honored in a program that honored all of Stark County's "Persons of Character."





# Northwest News

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## **CURRICULUM NEWS** from Director of Instruction Debora Clark

### **Race to the Top Update**

Northwest Local is currently focusing on the work outlined in year three of its Race to the Top Grant. The district has formed a Student Learning Objectives (SLO) Committee that will focus on developing a district plan for assisting teachers in developing student growth measures. The growth measures will be utilized to monitor the academic progress of our students and the data gathered from the SLO's will be used as part of the teacher evaluation system.

The district continues to focus on implementing the Formative Instructional Practices (FIP) initiative, which identifies clear learning targets for each content area, and developing and deploying common assessment practices. The district is piloting Ohio's teacher and principal evaluation systems with a focus on full implementation during the upcoming school year.

The Race to the Top transformation team met Friday, December 7, to monitor the district's progress in meeting identified goals and performance measures, determined the percentage of value-added growth measures that will be used at each grade level, and focused on the district's implementation procedures for the new teacher and principal evaluation systems.

The district is currently on track to meet its identified Race to the Top goals and performance measures.



Nate Haut and Megan Bilinovich

### **Third Grade 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 at grades kindergarten through three, create individualized reading improvement and monitoring plans and provide intensive reading interventions.

Each year during the month of September, all students in kindergarten through third grade shall be assessed using an English Language Arts diagnostic assessment. Student are on-track if they are reading at grade-level based on the previous end-of-year standards' expectations by September 30. Students identified as not on-track are not reading at grade level, based on previous end-of-year standards' expectations by September 30.

For the 2012-2013 school year, students must score 390 on either the fall or spring administration of the third grade reading Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA). The district must select one of the following options for students not reaching the designated score on the third grade reading OAA:

- Promote the student to the fourth grade if the principal and student's reading teacher agree that the student is prepared academically for Grade 4, based on another evaluation of reading skill;
- Promote the student to the fourth grade, but continue to provide intensive intervention services in Grade 4; or
- Retain the student in the third grade.

Parents who have questions about the guarantee should contact their child's building principal or Director of Instruction Debora Clark.

# Community Day Winter Carnival to be held January 27 at Northwest High School

Join the fun at the fourth annual Community Day Winter Carnival, hosted by the Northwest Local School District. This year’s event will take place on Jan. 27 from 1-5 p.m. at Northwest High School.

From students to local businesses, the event showcases the best of the Northwest community. Admission is free with plenty of family-friendly activities to be enjoyed by all.

“Cabin fever can really start to set in this time of year,” said Jim LaRiccia, Northwest Primary principal. “Community Day is a great opportunity for families and community members to have some fun, eat good food and enjoy the Northwest community being together.”

Carnival-style food, including hot dogs, pizza, French fries, nachos and hot pretzels, will be available in the commons. There will also be a pancake eating contest, a chili cook-off and a Hula Hoop contest.

Families can enjoy carnival activities, bounce houses and a petting zoo. Northwest choirs and bands and more will perform in the commons throughout the day, and over thirty local businesses and organizations will be stationed throughout the commons where they will be displaying their trades.

“We really hope everyone has the chance to attend,” said Trina Niemi, main organizer of the event. “This is a day for everyone to have fun, relax and celebrate the great community we live in. We’d also like to thank all of the local businesses and organizations that are helping us make this day possible.”

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## Athletic Charitable Committee News

The ACC will be holding a Night at the Races in February at Elm Ridge Party Center. Please look for more information on this event in the next edition of the Northwest News.

Recycling – Don’t forget to take your cans to the recycling center at the bus garage! It’s good for the environment and raises money for Northwest athletics!

## Calendar of Meetings

ACC – 1st Sunday of each month, 5:00 pm at HS Commons

Runners Club – 1st Sunday of each month @ 4:00 pm at HS in room 107

Touchdown Club – During season Every Monday @ 7:00 pm at the Annex

Takedown Club – 1st Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 pm at VFW

Northwest Cheer Association – 1st Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm in Home Ec @ HS

Lady Indians Basketball Boosters – 2nd Monday of each month, 6:00 pm @ Middle School Library

Lady Indians Soccer – 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm @ Middle School Library

Girls Softball Boosters – 3rd Wednesday of each month @ 6:00 at Grayce Ann’s Family Restaurant

Diamond Club – 1st Sunday of each month @ 7:00 pm in Commons.([www.nwindiansbaseball.com](http://www.nwindiansbaseball.com))





# Northwest News

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## Winter Sports Photos and Schedules

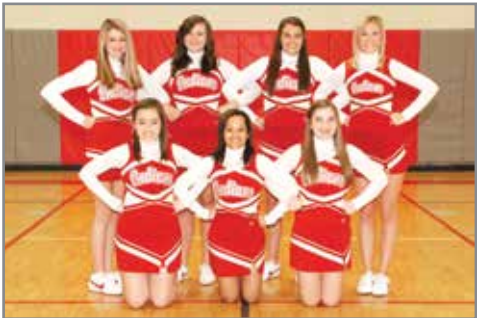
### Boys Basketball

				JV	Varsity
Saturday	12/15/12	AKRON NORTH	Away	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Tuesday	12/18/12	COVENTRY	Home	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	12/22/12	WQKT CLASSIC vs ORRVILLE	Wooster	6:00 PM	8:45 PM
Saturday	12/29/12	NORDONIA (JV ONLY)	Away	12:30 PM	
Saturday	12/29/12	GREYNOLDS CLASSIC vs NORDONIA at Barberton			6:00 PM
Friday	01/04/13	LAKE CENTER CHRISTIAN	Away	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/08/13	BARBERTON HS	Away	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Friday	01/11/13	JACKSON HS	Home	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/15/13	CHIPPEWA HS	Home	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	01/19/13	MERCY MEDICAL at HOOVER	Hoover		2:00 PM
Tuesday	01/22/13	COPLEY HS	Away	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	01/26/13	GLENOAK HS	Away	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/29/13	MARLINGTON HS	Home	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Friday	02/01/13	AKRON KENMORE	Home	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Tuesday	02/05/13	HOBAN HS	Away	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Friday	02/08/13	CANTON CC HS	Home	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	02/09/13	CARROLLTON HS	Home	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Tuesday	02/12/13	WASHINGTON HS	Home	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Tuesday	02/19/13	FAIRLESS HS	Away	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Friday	02/22/13	CANTON CC HS	Away	6:00 PM	7:30 PM



**Varsity Cheerleaders:**

Front Row (L-R): Abby Cundiff, Jessica Eicher, Jackie White, Kelsey Kincaid, Aspen Fink, and Marissa Crasi. Missing: Alli Loretto



**Junior Varsity Cheerleaders:**

Front Row (L-R): Molly Ogg, Lexi Engelman, and Taylor Lawrence. Back Row (L-R): Lauren Stover, Molly Hollenbaugh, Annie Stull, and Cassidy Spencer.



**Boys Varsity Basketball:**

Front Row (L-R): Brandon Freeman, Andrew Colon, Ryan Colby, Mack Ferrell, Jordan Hill, and Tristan Mullane. Back Row (L-R): Coach Mike Lower, Coach Scott Ross, Johnny Masters, Jeremy Mundell, Jordan West, Nate Haut, Jackson Schultz, Anderson Russell, Chad Hill, Coach Andy Cocklin, Statistician Jake Penrod, and Filmer Matt Brigham.



**Boys Junior Varsity Basketball:**

(L-R): Josh Albino, Nick Hearn, Michael Zervos, Brian Belles, Dale Hazzard, Jeff Shimko, Alex Vales, Adam Haswell, Cory Earnsberger and JV Coach Andy Cocklin. Missing: Collin McCurry and Jacob Hyrne.



High School Principal Eric Bornstine in the newly opened high school gymnasium. Located on the east side of the building, the gym offers a seating capacity of 1140, a training room and new locker rooms.





# Girls Basketball

			JV	Varsity
Tuesday	12/18/12	PERRY (JV MAYORS' CUP)	Central	7:30 PM
Wednesday	12/19/12	PERRY (MAYORS CUP)	Home	7:30 PM
Thursday	12/20/12	JV MAYORS' CUP	Central	TBA
Saturday	12/22/12	MAYORS CUP	Home	1:00 PM
Saturday	12/29/12	GLENOAK	Home 12:00 PM	1:30 PM
Monday	01/07/13	GREEN	Away 6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Wednesday	01/09/13	LAKE	Away 6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	01/12/13	CLAYMONT	Home 12:00 PM	1:30 PM
Wednesday	01/16/13	JACKSON	Away 6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	01/19/13	HILLSDALE	Home 12:00 PM	1:30 PM
Thursday	01/24/13	LAKE CENTER CHRISTIAN	Home 6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	01/26/13	BARBERTON	Home 12:00 PM	1:30 PM
Monday	01/28/13	TUSLAW	Away 6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	02/02/13	WAYNE DALE	Away 1:00 PM	2:30 PM
Wednesday	02/06/13	WASHINGTON	Away 6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Saturday	02/09/13	CANTON SOUTH	Away 2:00 PM	3:30 PM
Monday	02/11/13	ALLIANCE	Away 6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Thursday	02/14/13	CHIPPEWA	Home 6:00 PM	7:30 PM



Girls Varsity Basketball:

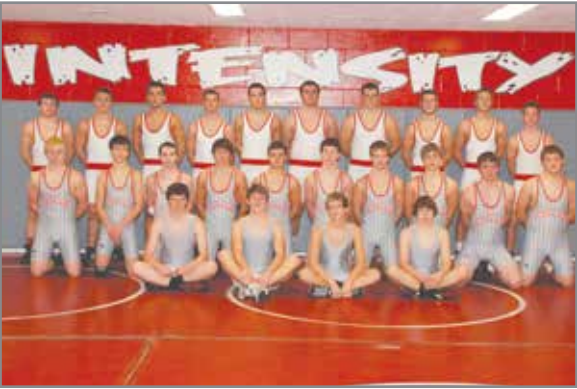
Front Row (L-R): Kirsten Mitchen, Maddie Worden, Jessica Boecker, Amanda Crites, and Kayla Ley. Back Row (L-R): Coach Erik Stookey, Jordan Smith, LeAndra Martin, Ashley Crossland, Emma Canfield, Taylor Heard, and Coach Donnie Schenz.



Girls Junior Varsity Basketball:

Front (L-R): Leena Snyder, Kaylynn Boak, Ashley Kittinger, Mackenzie Boecker, Hayley Macko, and Serafina Kirkpatrick. Back Row (L-R): Shianne Shiplett, Leah Luhring, Emma Canfield, Taylor, Heard, Sarah Butti, Alyssa Strabley. and Coach Rich Harland.

# Wrestling



Varsity Wrestling:

Front Row (L-R): David Fitzwater, Alan Strelecki, Zach Earnsberger, and Collin Thompkins. Middle Row (L-R): Kyle Myers, Brady Kapper, Brandon Rolinson, Chuck Kirkpatrick, Chris Jackson, Dalton Cox, Matt Oakes, Nate Gissinger, Tim Fitzwater, and Kyle Brosch. Back Row (L-R): Kyle Harris, Dylan Causman, Tim Saylor, Bryan Pawlyk, Robby Meismer, Paul Wellman, Tyler Bowman, Brandon King, Justin Smith, and Josh Waddle.

Varsity Wrestling Schedule

Friday	12/14/12	53rd HOOVER INVITATIONAL	Away	5:00 PM
Saturday	12/15/12	53rd HOOVER INVITATIONAL	Away	9:30 AM
Thursday	12/20/12	BARBERTON DUALS	Away	6:00 PM
Saturday	12/22/12	LAKE DOUBLE DUALS	Away	2:30 PM
Saturday	12/29/12	SALEM INVITATIONAL	Away	10:00 AM
Thursday	01/10/13	CANTON CC-RITTMAN-NW TRI	Home	6:00 PM
Wednesday	01/16/13	NW-MANCHESTER-WASHINGTON TRI	Away	5:00 PM
Friday	01/18/13	TOP GUN at ALLIANCE	Away	11:00 AM
Saturday	01/19/13	TOP GUN at ALLIANCE	Away	10:00 AM
Saturday	01/26/13	COVENTRY-CARROLLTON-NW TRI	Home	6:00 PM
Saturday	02/02/13	TIGER INVITATIONAL at MASSILLON	Away	9:00 AM
Friday	02/15/13	OHSAA SECTIONAL	Away	5:00 PM

JV Wrestling Schedule

Monday	12/31/12	DOVER JV TOURNEY	Away	9:00 AM
Monday	01/21/13	NW JV TOURNEY	Home	10:00 AM
Monday	01/28/13	MARLINGTON IRONBOY	Away	9:00 AM

Please remember to check the district website for cancellations or postponements due to inclement weather. Also, schedules and photos of the middle school and freshman teams are also available on the district website.



# Northwest News

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## Northwest High School Students Celebrate Reading

Northwest High School and the Canal Fulton Public Library joined forces to create a community-wide scavenger hunt to mark Teen Read Week, October 15 - 19. Mrs. Shannon Stacy's newspaper class took photos of Northwest High School teachers reading their favorite books. Using InDesign, students created READ posters that were placed in Canal Fulton and Clinton.



Mrs. Stacy and Mrs. Haynam

Participating students were given a clue sheet that would lead them to a location where they recorded each teacher's name and favorite book. Once they completed the entry form, they returned it to the Canal Fulton Public Library and were entered into a drawing for prizes. Brittany McCombs won a NOOK Simple Touch with Glowlight. Toby McCombs, Zia Schrader and Lexi Paone won \$25 gift certificates from Scholastic Books to use at the high school library's book fair.

## National Honor Society Inducts 19 New Members

Northwest High School recently inducted new members of National Honor Society. Students selected must fulfill the qualities of character, scholarship, leadership and service. The inductees are Michael Bechtel, Heather Butti, Celsie Channell, Meredith Fennell, Hannah Gordon, Cody Greenwalt, Macy Hamad, Jacob Hill, Holly Knight, Hayley Lemmon, Alli Loretto, Ariel Marx, Makenzi Midcap, Jacob Penrod, Hannah Podnar, Madison Ross, Anna Sharier, Abigail Siegenthaler, and Cassandra Watkins.



2012 National Honor Society Inductees



Current National Honor Society Members





Nick Rutt, Hallie Laterza, Mr. Stroh, Kristina King, and Jared Szekely

## Northwest Middle School Held Annual “Canvention”

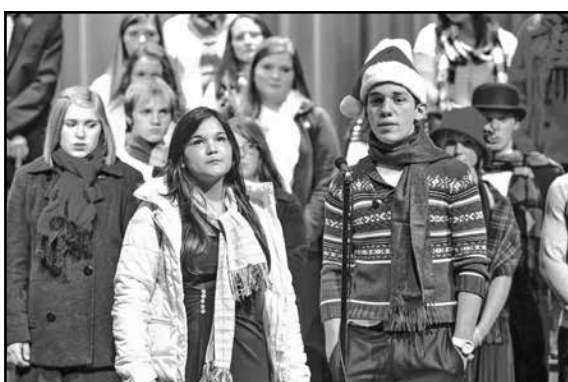
Mr. Travis Stroh’s class won the middle school’s canned food drive by collecting 300 items. The middle school donated 13 hundred cans to the local community cupboard.

## Seventh-Grade Greek Mythological Olympics

The seventh graders at Northwest Middle School worked hard the first and second nine weeks preparing in every class for the first annual Greek Mythological Olympic Games. The Olympic Games were held November 21. The seventh grade class was divided into 8 Greek City-States, and each team participated in 8 different events, which included Aphrodite’s Suitcase Race, Hermes Relay Race and The Olympic Family Feud. In the Hercules Strongman Contest, Blake Carr (Crete) outlasted all other competitors. In Apollo’s Creative Contest, Maelynn Norton (Argos) took first place. In Medusa’s Wild Hair Contest, Liberty Minne (Argos) was the winner. At the end of the day, Team Argos defeated all other challengers to take the gold medal for the Greek Mythological Olympics.

## Northwest High School Band and Choir Hold Annual Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas concert was held December 9 at Puffenberger Hall, under the direction of Band Directors, Mr. Garry Masowich and Mrs. Kim Good and Choir Director Mrs. JoAnn Pitzer.



# Northwest News

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## Stinson Grand Re-Opening

Books open doors! Join us as we celebrate Right-to-Read Week and our annual Book Fair February 12, 2013. Stinson Elementary will open its doors for a night of family fun and entertainment. Stinson staff members invite everyone to tour our new facilities and see all that Stinson Elementary has to offer students, from our state-of-the-art classrooms, computer lab and library to our “cafetorium” for dining and fine arts. Families will have the opportunity to shop at our annual Book Fair, make crafts, pose for silly pictures in a photo booth and more. No need to feed the family before coming because the Betterment League will provide pizza, chips, and drinks for a small donation. Please mark your calendars and join us to celebrate our Book Fair, Right-to-Read Week, and the Grand Re-Opening of Stinson Elementary!



## High School Musical Announced

The high school drama department is pleased to announce that this year’s musical is *Willy Wonka*, based on Roald Dahl’s *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Show dates are April 12-14. Tickets will go on sale March 27. To volunteer to help with this year’s production, or for more information, please call Mrs. Leslie Haynam at the high school or contact her by email, Haynam.L@northwest.sparcc.org.

## Santa Arrives Early at Northwest Bus Garage

Who doesn’t love a bargain? Northwest Transportation Director Ray Gesaman never expected to locate a great buy on a school bus on Craigslist. “I was on there looking at vehicles and noticed this ad that said, ‘School Bus - \$35,000 Parma.’ The bus was listed as ‘a 2009 model, Mercedes Benz engine, 54 passengers.’ In the photo the bus looked new,” said Gesaman.

Gesaman found that the bus, purchased by a private Christian school in Parma for 70 thousand dollars, had decided to sell the vehicle for financial reasons. The bus had been built to Ohio school bus specifications, had passed state inspections in August 2012, and had logged fewer than 26 thousand miles. After a test drive, mechanical inspection and discussion with other school districts who owned similar buses, Gesaman and District Treasurer Dan Levengood finalized the deal November 1.



Bus Aide Donna Witte, Transportation Director Ray Gesaman and Driver Georgia McHood

The bargain-priced vehicle, now Bus #2, has replaced a special needs bus with 212,000 miles. Veteran driver Georgia McHood praises the new bus for its fuel economy and “awesome” ride. This purchase is just another effort by district personnel to conserve taxpayer dollars.



# Northwest Local Schools Committed to Stop Bullying

The district took an important step in the implementation of the research-based Olweus Bullying Prevention Program Nov. 5 with a staff training. All staff members, including bus drivers, secretaries, custodians, aides, tutors and teachers, were given an overview of the program and training that explained the potential for bullying in the classroom, school and community with an emphasis on promoting communication with parents.



Guidance Counselor Marcy McKendry trains staff

Students in grades 4-8 and a sample of students in grades 9-12 took part in an Olweus Bullying Prevention questionnaire. This questionnaire provided information as to the “hot spots,” places where students report bullying taking place most often, are in each building so supervision can be increased. The questionnaire also gives data that can be used as a baseline for future questionnaires as a way of measuring program success.

During the week of January 22, each building will kick off their bullying prevention program with a theme of “Count on Me.” The activities will include a week full of discussion, awareness and information about bullying, as well as some fun activities. This will also launch the beginning of teacher-led classroom meetings, an important component of the program. The goal of the classroom meetings is to give students a safe environment to discuss the complex issue of bullying, help them learn strategies for dealing with the issue and build student and staff connections.

Parents who are interested in learning more about the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program are invited to attend an informational meeting in Puffenberger Hall on Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Stinson teacher, Amy Lower, is pleased to see a district-wide stance against bullying: “I’m excited Northwest is being proactive and empowering our students with knowledge and information about bullying. Taking it on as a district helps us raise awareness at all levels. It comes down to every child should feel safe, worthy and comfortable being at school.”

Look for our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program table at the Northwest Community Day on January 27 to get more information about this program and the positive steps Northwest is taking in bullying prevention. We will also be collecting orders for “Count on Me” t-shirts for \$10.00 each.





# Northwest News

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## Northwest Schools Honor our Veterans and Active Duty Forces

### Northwest High School and Northwest Primary School Honor Veterans and Active Duty Military

Northwest High School and Northwest Primary School each held Veterans Day programs on November 9, honoring those members of the military who served and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Also in attendance were active duty members.

Among those in attendance who are currently serving in the military are Army Specialist Michael Powell and Private First Class Naimeh Lebron, both 2007 graduates of Northwest. Powell was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan where he served as a combat infantryman. He is presently a member of the National Guard. Lebron, who joined the army in May, will go through basic training in January.

Chief Jacob Bickett, a 1999 Northwest alumnus, joined the Navy in 2001. Presently working out of the Navy Recruiting District in Canton, Chief Bickett will take over as an LCAC Craftmaster next August. LCACs are hovercrafts the Navy uses to conduct amphibious assaults on beaches.

We value the contributions of all members of the nation's military, and we sincerely appreciate their service and sacrifice.



Army Specialist Michael Powell and Private First Class Naimeh Lebron, 2007 graduates of Northwest



Grandpa Dave Wood, Grandma Janice Wood and Max Wood



Kelly Conkle, Anthony Barkhurst, Kaylee Turley, and Debbie Barkhurst



Ben Lukezic



Board of Education member Steve Jones, Chief Jacob Bickett and his mother, Kathy Bickett



Northwest High School band and choir members provided a musical tribute to our nation's service men and women.