

Northwest News

Northwest Local Schools
2309 Locust St. S
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

February 2011:: Issue 9



Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOLS

RENEWAL LEVY MAY 3

**NOT A
NEW TAX**

MAINTAINS WHAT WE HAVE

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Committee for Strategic Planning

Nearly 30 educators and district residents joined together for three days in December to plan the future for Northwest students:

Jay Baughman
Bruce Beadle
Eric Bornstine
Jemmi Boso
Debora Clark
Mark Cozy
Al D'Angelo
Nancy Ebner
Ken Gabbard
Rita Gearhart
Denise Giroux
Miranda Kibler
Maria Kuhn
Cindy Lane
Dan Levengood
Chris Marcum
Lori Mariani
Deb Messner
Nikki Metzger
Brian Millard
Nick Noble
Matt Oakes
Donna Pellikan
John Rafeiledes
Monica Smith
Bill Stetler
Mary Stockert
Gary Woods
Rick Woods

Northwest Community Plans for the Future

For three days in December, 29 educators and community members met to plan for the future of the students of our district in a process facilitated by Ohio School Boards Association consultant Kathy LaSota. Superintendent Bill Stetler explains the reason for long-term planning: "A strategic plan answers this question: What will the children, in 10 years, thank you for? Up to this point, our decisions have been driven out of desperation financially. We've now got the boat afloat, and, that's OK, but it doesn't take you anywhere, so you have to direct it where to go."

The committee was represented by a cross-section of the community, not all of whom agreed with school district's decisions over the years. One of those individuals is Ken Gabbard, who changed some of his opinions after serving on the committee:

"I was bitter toward the school district and the things we were giving up while I was paying a lot of taxes. More levies were coming up, and as a citizen I felt like I was giving and not receiving. For example, I asked if giving up busing was a good decision. Were the board members being good tenants of our money? I had a chance to meet the teachers and the principals through being on the strategic planning committee. I found out they were professionals, good people trying to do a great job.

"I feel like our money was being maximized after meeting with these people. Sometimes I don't know if we have anyone representing us anywhere, not just with the schools. But with the school system, I have an admiration for Mr. Stetler. He has the backs of his teachers, and the people working with him are people wanting to do the finest job. I believe he is committed to training the teachers to do their best to give our children a quality education." ...continued on page 5

Northwest Local Schools Renewal Levy

At its Jan. 24 meeting, the Northwest Local School District Board of Education voted to place a renewal levy on the May 3, 2011, ballot.

Key Points to Remember

1. This is Not a New Tax

- a. This is a renewal levy that will simply maintain the \$1.5 million that is currently being collected from a levy that was passed in 1992.
- b. This levy has been renewed every five years and the millage reduced every year since that time.

2. The Renewal Levy Maintains What We Have

- a. Passing this renewal levy will keep the Northwest Local Schools out of debt, according to the five year forecast.
- b. It would also allow the district to maintain its current operations and programs.
- c. State deficits and cuts are looming.

3. This is a Continuation of Your Plan. Your Vote.

- a. As part of the plan set forth by the Independent Financial Oversight Committee, this renewal levy would have to pass in order for the district to be financially solvent.
- b. This is simply a continuation of the plan that has already been put in place.

4. This Renewal Levy is for Operating Money

- a. This renewal levy has nothing to do with school building construction.
- b. The up-and-coming construction and remodeling projects are being paid for with state matching funds.

**NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOLS
RENEWAL LEVY MAY 3**

**NOT A
NEW TAX**

MAINTAINS WHAT WE HAVE

Public Notice – Preschool Teachers Needed

Discovery Time Preschool in Canal Fulton is seeking teachers for the 2011-2012 school year. Discovery Time is located in the Canal Fulton Methodist Church.

Contact the church office for details at 330.854.3573.



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Community Members Volunteer at the Northwest Local Schools



Dian Mollet Volunteers at Northwest Middle School

Dian Mollet's twins may have moved on to the high school, but Dian still feels a tie with the students at Northwest Middle School. An avid supporter of the school district, she was aware of the impact that the financial crisis has had on the library program. Dian puts it simply, "I like to read, and I wanted the kids to have additional books to read."

Having volunteered at Stinson Elementary's book fair, Dian was instrumental in starting the middle school's first Scholastic Book Fair in 2009, during which \$1,400 worth of books were sold. In 2010 the middle school nearly doubled the amount made previously, selling \$2,700 worth of books for a 50 percent profit in Scholastic books.



Laurie Foulk Volunteers at Northwest Primary

Laurie Foulk volunteers at Northwest Primary School. Visitors to the school will often be greeted by Laurie's friendly smile, as she lends support to staff members and teachers. In addition to working in the office every week, she also works in the school store once a month, where students can purchase supplies before school, and helps out on "Popcorn Fridays." Laurie also baked cookies and worked as a greeter for Grandparents' Day in September. In October she worked the annual event, "Dinner with Dad." Never one to back away from a challenge to help the schools, Laurie baked cookies for Community Day, enough for about 300 people!



Larry Murgatroyd Volunteers as President of the ACC

Larry Murgatroyd has served as President of the Northwest Athletic Charitable Committee (ACC) for the past three years, and he volunteers for the school district because he lives in the community and wants to give back. Athletic Director Gary Woods is extremely grateful for the work performed by the ACC and the leadership provided by Larry: "The ACC has been a tremendous asset to our financially strapped district. Their efforts have enabled us to eliminate our debt on the home and visitor's side bleachers at a cost of \$400,000 and dramatically reduce our debt on the all-weather track, which was a balance of about \$40,000 on a \$150,000 project. As president of the group, Larry's leadership and personal investment of time has been priceless."

THE PLAN COVERS THREE PRIORITIES:

- 1. Student Preparedness*
- 2. Professional Development*
- 3. Optimizing Human, Material and Financial Resources*

It also includes a vision, mission statement and core values.

OUR VISION: Northwest Local School District: A premier learning organization – the gateway to opportunities.

OUR MISSION: We educate, motivate and inspire each student to achieve his or her highest potential.

CORE VALUES: As we strive to attain our Vision and go about the work in our Mission, we are committed and bound to the following values:

- An active partnership with parents and community.
- Honesty and integrity in all we do.
- Respecting tradition while looking to the future.
- Equipping educators with the means to provide dynamic learning experiences.
- Continuous learning and improvement.
- Respecting the worth and dignity of each individual, creating a safe learning environment.
- Equal and diverse educational opportunities for all students to prepare them to be competitive in a global market.
- An environment that reflects our community values and enhances the development of the whole individual.

GOALS:

- Through academic and character development, each student will be prepared for future success.
- All staff will have the professional development and training necessary to ensure student success.
- We will make fiscally responsible decisions that optimize resources in order to deliver a premier educational experience.

STRATEGIES:

- Create a comprehensive structure to deploy ongoing K-12 articulation and curriculum alignment with related professional development.
- Create a technology assessment, acquisition maintenance and training program.
- Create and implement a timeline and process for restoring academic, co- and extra-curricular options.
- Create a comprehensive Communication Plan.
- Create and implement a Student Development Plan.
- Strengthen current and develop new, active community partnerships.
- Create a program that increases employee satisfaction and addresses employee well-being.

For the complete draft of the strategic plan, go to our Web site, www.northwest.sparcc.org.

Gabbard encourages members of the community and school district personnel to study the strategic plan:

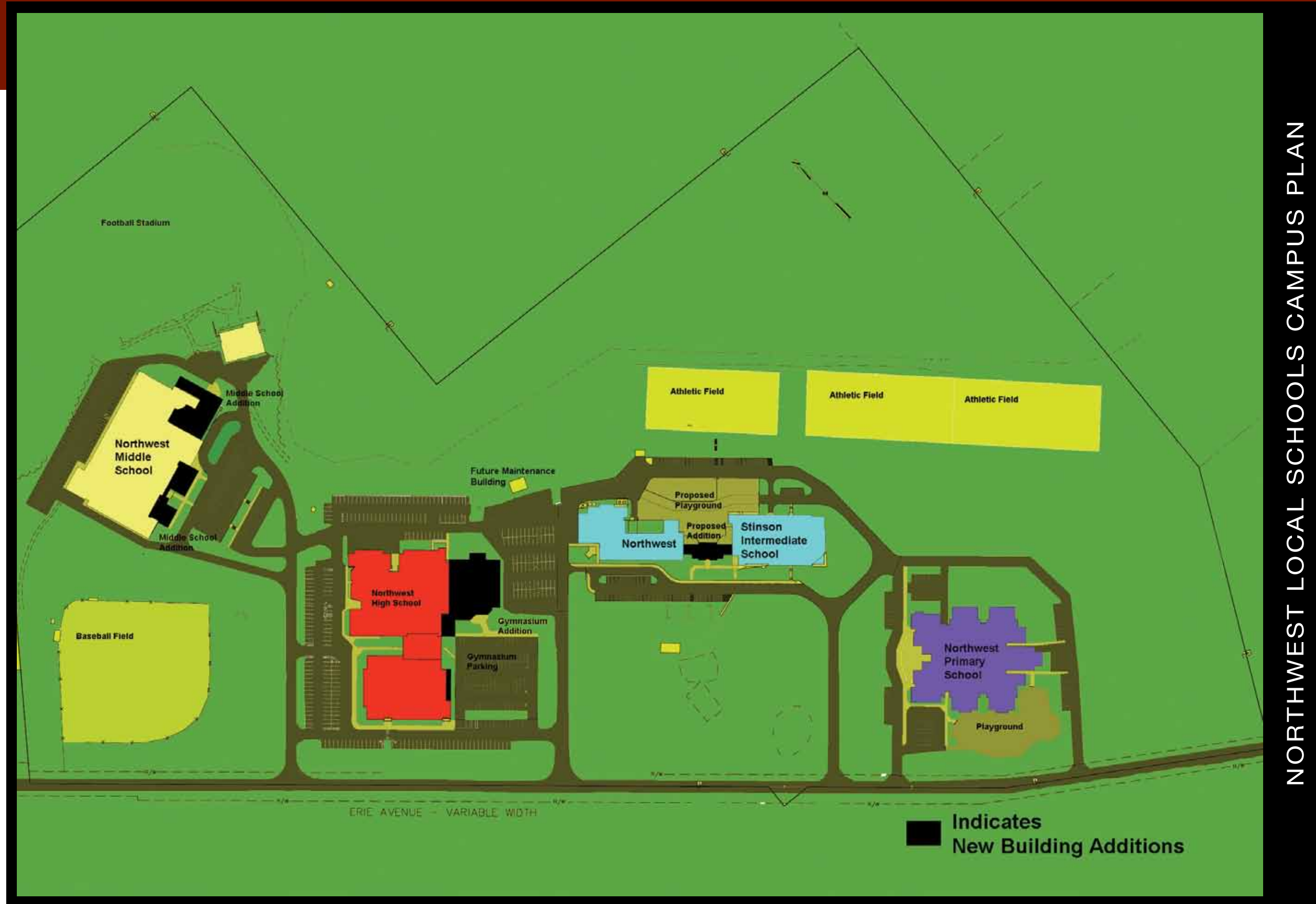
“The community and the teachers will be remiss if they don’t study the strategic plan. It is important that everyone understands the values from which the goals and strategies are built. The values represent us, the community.”



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Northwest Utilizes State Dollars to Enhance School Buildings



Volunteer Members of the Facility Committee:



Gary Johnson

Assistant Manager of Carter Lumber
grjohnson83@yahoo.com



Don Schalmo

Local Contractor
Canal Fulton



Dave Walker

Project Manager, Local General Contractor
Clinton
dwalker1936@yahoo.com



Michael Kremer

Energy Consultant
Clinton
Michael.Kremer@novar.com



Jim Gindlesberger

Northwest Local School District Board Member
Canal Fulton
gindlesberger.j@northwest.sparcc.org



Jim Snyder

Resident
Canal Fulton
jrsnyder@sssnet.com



Glen Graham

Retired Contractor
Lawrence Township

Facilities Timeline:

According to Construction Manager Tony Ignazio, the middle school portion of the project will begin in February 2011.

The Stinson Elementary School project will be advertised at the end of February 2011, and the work there will begin in April 2011.

The high school addition will be advertised in April with construction starting in May 2011.



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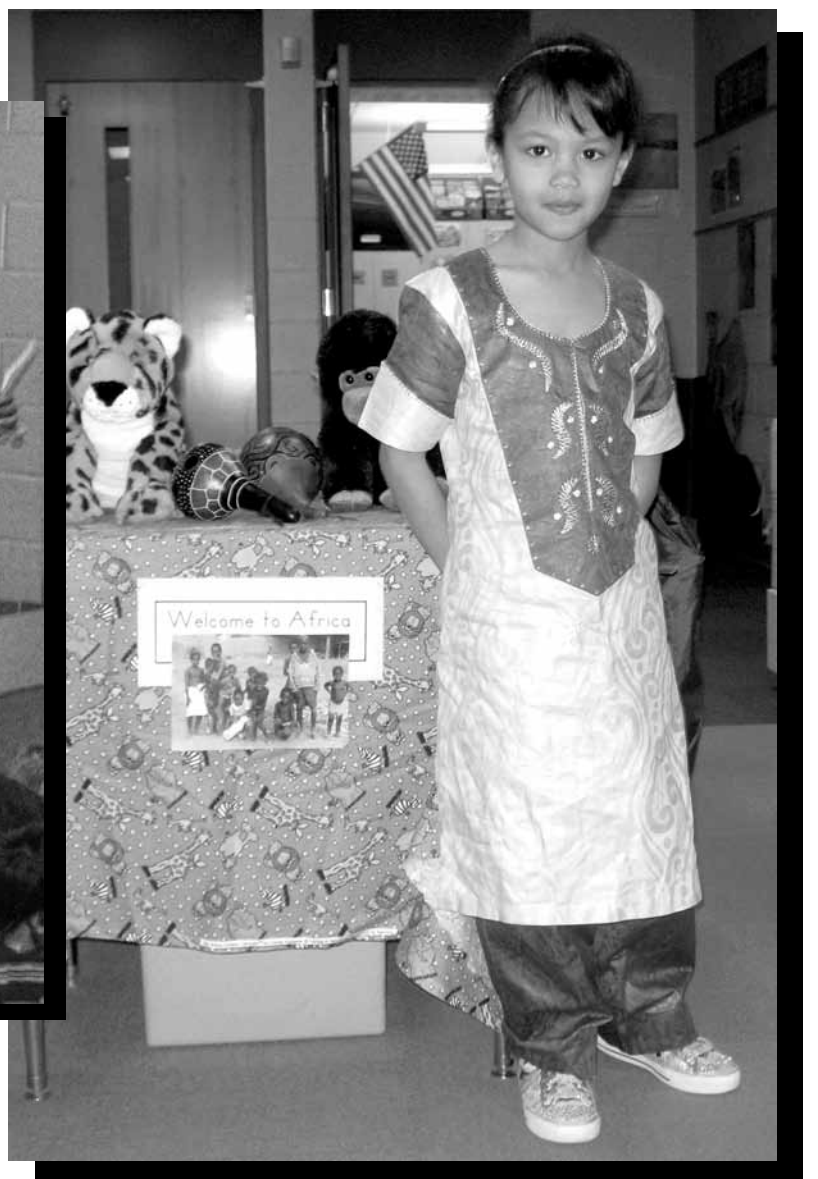
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Northwest Primary Celebrates its Annual Multicultural Event

Northwest Primary School recently held its annual Multicultural Day. Mrs. Nair is the grandma to Alivia, who is a first-grader, and Ashton, who is a second-grader. Born in India, Mrs. Nair now lives in Pennsylvania and traveled seven hours to be a presenter. She goes to India every year to visit family. She values traditions of her Motherland and is the mother of Dr. Ajay Nair of Canal Fulton.



Mrs. Nair at the annual Multicultural Day.



Arianna Borbonus is wearing a dress made in Africa.

Northwest School Buildings Renamed

In recent action by the Northwest Board of Education, district schools were modified to better represent students' age groups. Northwest Elementary School with grades K-2 has become Northwest Primary. With the closing of the Intermediate School, W.S. Stinson with grades 3-5 has become W.S. Stinson Elementary. Northwest Middle School with grades 6-8 will retain its name as will Northwest High School.



Bruce Beadle, Rita Gearhart, Steve Jones, Nikki Metzger, and Jim Gindlesberger

Committed to an Open & Transparent District

beadle.b@northwest.sparcc.org

gearhart.r@northwest.sparcc.org

jones.sc@northwest.sparcc.org

metzger.n@northwest.sparcc.org

gindlesberger.j@northwest.sparcc.org

Thin Client Computing and LED Lighting will Help Northwest Save Energy Thanks to H.B. 264

Computers can be an invaluable tool for school districts. However, the cost of owning, operating and repairing computers can be equally expensive. Based on the specific type of computing hardware and accessories as well as software updates and “fixes,” energy and maintenance cannot be ignored. Finally, the cost of replacing individual computers for an entire district can be daunting and has not been done at Northwest Local for many years. In fact, most of our computers are older than our students.

A portion of our Energy Conservation Program will address reducing the utility and operating costs of computing through the implementation of a server based “Thin Client” computing system. This system will eliminate the need for individual computers while at the same time maintaining the same fundamental computing experience from the user’s perspective. The operating system is provided by a server, which is housed in the district. The district will be running Windows 7 Pro on all Thin Client terminals. The Thin Client terminals come equipped with a monitor, keyboard, mouse and a WYSE (Brand) Thin Client mounted on the back of the monitor. This program will not only reduce operational and repair costs, but will produce a reduction in electrical consumption for Northwest. The net cost to the district through savings will be zero dollars out of pocket for these upgrades.

Another aspect of H.B. 264 is new LED lighting in the campus parking lots, beginning with the high school lot. Although the high school is only four-years-old, new technologies have been developed in that time which will reduce energy consumption costs while providing more and safer lighting. The new lights will only draw 136 watts yet provide lighting that registers 1,000 watts. Other energy savings will be achieved through automatic lights switches and heating controls. The energy savings to the school district will be approximately \$1 million in 10 years.

Community Recycling – Help support the Northwest Athletic programs and recycle at the same time!

Two dumpsters have been placed in town for the collection of aluminum cans - one at the bus garage and one by the high school. PSC Metals has donated pickup and drop-off services for the dumpsters. All we have to do is fill them with our aluminum cans!

Do you have any cell phone, iPods, MP3 players, digital cameras, digital video cameras, laptops, handheld game systems, GPS devices, electronic book readers or ink jet cartridges not in use? Gather them up and drop them off in any of the Electronics Recycling bins located in the office of each Northwest school building.



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School District Income Tax

The Northwest School District Income Tax that was approved by voters went into effect on January 1. In the October issue of the *Northwest News* we covered many general facts about the implementation of the tax. Since that time a few specific questions have been raised. Following are answers to the most frequently ask questions.

My employer says that withholding the tax is voluntary and doesn't want to withhold the tax from my paycheck. The Ohio Department of Taxation sent all employers an annual Withholding Update in December. The first sentence in the update states that Ohio law requires employers to canvass their employees, and if they live within the boundaries of a school district with an income tax they must withhold the tax from an employee's compensation. A copy of this employer notification can be viewed at the Northwest Web site. If you or your employer would prefer to talk to someone at the Ohio Department of Taxation, call Bob Davidson at 614.466.3094.

My employer won't withhold the tax or I am self-employed and I want to make estimated tax payments. What do I do? To make estimated tax payments visit the Ohio Department of Taxation Web site, http://tax.ohio.gov/divisions/school_district_income/index.stm, and select More School District Income Tax Forms. This link will provide you with the estimated tax vouchers necessary to make a tax payment. The form will require you to enter a school district code number, and the correct code number for Northwest Local is **7612**. Again, if you would prefer to talk to someone at the Department of Taxation, call Sylvester Monroe at 614.466.0090.

If you have additional questions that were not addressed, please call the Treasurer's Office at 330.854.6397 or e-mail Treasurer Dan Levengood at Levengood.d@northwest.sparcc.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, FEBRUARY 25
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Please remember to bring:

- 1. Your child***
- 2. Your child's birth certificate***
- 3. Your child's immunization record***
- 4. Your child's social security number***
- 5. Any court documents regarding your child***

Our transportation director, school nurse, principal, kindergarten teachers, and building secretary will be available to answer your questions.



**WE'RE HERE
FOR YOUR
COMMUNITY**



The YMCA of Central Stark County will begin offering programs in the Northwest School District service area for its residents starting in March.

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Group Exercise classes: Available in
APRIL @ the S.A.L.T. Box
Ministry Building

Instructional Basketball: Available in
FEBRUARY for ages 3-2nd grade.

Before & After School Childcare: K-5th
grade. 2011/2012 school year @
Northwest Primary School
Financial assistance available

For more information: Email Pam Leddin
at pleddon@ymcastark.org or call
330-830-6275

Prayers for the School

On the nights of school board meetings, from 7 to 8 p.m., a group of community members will gather in the administrative building, located in the bus garage on Locust Street, to pray for the boys and girls of Northwest and its communities. All residents are welcome to join in prayer. For further information, please call Maureen at 330.353.0073 or e-mail her at Maureeninohio@yahoo.com.



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Athletic Charitable Committee Supporting Athletics in our local Northwest community

The Athletic Charitable Committee (A.C.C.) is a committee of volunteers dedicated to improving our local Northwest sporting facilities in order to continue our commitment to excellence for future generations.

The ACC is currently comprised of members representing:

- Touchdown Club (Football)
- Takedown Club (Wrestling)
- Runner's Club (Track / Cross Country)
- Lady Indians Basketball Boosters (Girls Basketball)
- Northwest Softball Boosters
- Northwest Cheerleading Association
- Northwest Girls Soccer

What's New?

THE THRIVE & DRIVE KIA FORTE CAR RAFFLE



WIN THIS CAR ON MARCH 19TH!

FIRST PRIZE:
2010 Kia Forte



2ND PRIZE:
Flat Screen TV

3RD PRIZE:
iPod Touch

**Tickets are \$10
per chance.**

**Drawing will
be held at
VanDevere on
March 19, 2011.**

With the help of VanDevere Kia, the Athletic Charitable Committee is selling chances to win a 2010 Kia Forte. The VanDevere Bunch has generously donated a 2010 Kia Forte to the ACC for the purpose of raising funds to pay off the all weather track and for other much needed projects. All proceeds from the raffle will be used to benefit the Northwest students and community. Our goal is to sell 6,000 tickets and we believe that with your help we can do it! **Contact Adrey Schley at 330.715.7776 for ticket information.**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 23 – Northwest

Runner's Club is sponsoring
a Blood Drive from 3-7 p.m.
@ Middle School

MARCH 12 – Girls Softball Steak
Fry @ VFW

MARCH 26 – Touchdown Club
Spring Drawdown @ Hillside

Calendar of Meetings

ACC – 1st Sunday of each month,
5 p.m. at Middle School Library

TOUCHDOWN CLUB – 1st
Monday of each month
@ 7 p.m. at VFW

TAKEDOWN CLUB – 1st Tuesday
of each month @ 7 p.m. at VFW

NORTHWEST CHEER ASSN. – 1st
Monday of each month, 7 p.m.
at Middle School Cafeteria

**LADY INDIANS BASKETBALL
BOOSTERS** – 2nd Monday of
each month, 6 p.m. @ Middle
School Library

GIRLS SOFTBALL BOOSTERS –
3rd Wednesday of each month
@ 6 p.m. at HS Commons

RUNNERS CLUB – 1st Sunday of
each month @ 4 p.m. at Middle
School Library