

# Northwest News

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

December 2011: Issue 14



*Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education*

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## Northwest Local Schools **MAINTAINS** Promise of

## Fiscal Responsibility

The Northwest Local Schools is continually looking for ways to maintain costs in order to uphold its promise of fiscal responsibility while still providing students with the best education possible.

We would like to share with the community the ways Northwest is saving the district money while still enriching the lives of its students.

For example, the district is in the final stages of refinancing the remaining bonds that were sold in 2002, saving the district approximately \$1.5 million. The bus garage has also been able to save the district \$250,000 in costs compared to the 2007-2008 school year.

And while our students may not be able to attend field trips, the district has found a way to bring field trips to the students through an Arts Enrichment Program.

You can find more information on these topics in this issue of the Northwest News:

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**Costs are Down in New  
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# Northwest News

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## Persons of Character Honored

Once again the Northwest Schools recognized special individuals who demonstrated the finest qualities of character through the Stark County Educational Service Center's Character Counts Program.



**Jeff Ludwig  
recognized  
by Northwest  
Primary School**

"In less than two years at Northwest Local, Jeff has made a positive impact on everyone he has encountered. He displays a countenance of joy, kindness, and patience.

From the tech guru to the technologically challenged, he treats all with respect and professionalism. He returns phone calls and/or emails the same day with a pleasant demeanor and genuine concern. He views challenges as opportunities and reminds us that no question is 'too dumb.' Jeff has taken on the fast and changing pace of technology without losing the relational piece needed to keep everyone on board. He has kept the ship afloat no matter the weather."



**Shauna Martin  
recognized  
by Northwest  
Middle School**

"Shauna is a tutor for Northwest Schools. She has distinguished herself as a person of character. Shauna and her husband Vince started Shelbi

Sweets and Treats in March of 2009 after the passing of their daughter Shelbi, due to cancer. They raise money for children suffering from cancer to grant them a wish. Shauna is very active in her church's activities. Her enthusiasm, innovativeness and concern for students have made her an outstanding teacher and individual."



**Rhonda Oser  
recognized  
by Stinson Elementary**

"The best way to describe Rhonda Oser, Stinson's Person of Character, is to duplicate this quote, 'Good character is contagious; be a carrier.' Rhonda permeates goodness in everything she

does and in every person she encounters. She is always selflessly giving of her time and talents for the good of others. Rhonda is a hard worker and easy to work with because of her positivity, flexibility and genuine personality. She deserves this nomination because we want her to know how much we all value and appreciate all the things she does and all the lives she has touched.



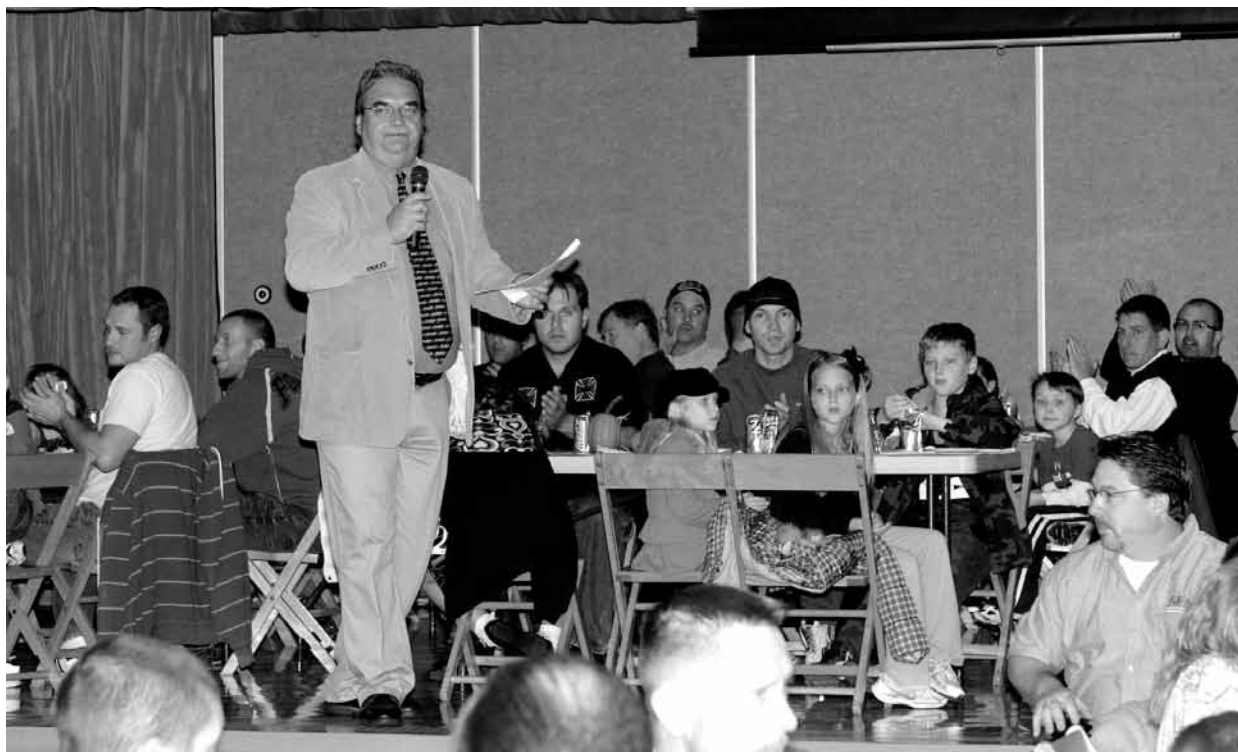
**Bill Stump  
recognized  
by Northwest  
High School**

"Mr. Stump continues to maintain a student focus. He is responsible, trustworthy, fair, and compassionate. His

interactions with students, parents, and fellow staff members showcase his core values, such as honesty, integrity, and respect. He is an outstanding teacher, teacher leader, coach, and person who intentionally develops and strengthens partnerships with students, parents, and community members through his everyday actions."



# Dinner with Dads



Principal Jim Lariccia speaks at annual Dinner with Dad event.

The annual “Dinner with Dad” was held on October 20, and first-graders and their fathers, or a very important person in their lives, enjoyed hot dogs and the entertainment of a dog show.



Cliff Holcomb, Stephanie Fox, Susie Jones, Melissa Reinford, and Nicole Salle were some of the servers for the dinner.

## Chieftain Staff Selling Old Yearbooks and Photos

The high school yearbook staff has a special opportunity for you. Staff members are selling copies of *The Chieftain* for \$25 each. These copies include various years from 1939 through 2010. They also have several senior class pictures, the panoramic views, available for sale

for \$10. These prices are more than half off the original price of each. Interested parties can call the yearbook advisor, Leslie Haynam, at the high school or email her at [Haynam.L@northwest.sparcc.org](mailto:Haynam.L@northwest.sparcc.org).



# Northwest News

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Board of Education



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

## Northwest Community Fortunate to have Outstanding Board Members

Serving on the board of education is a challenging position, and the Northwest District has been fortunate to have dedicated residents who truly care about the children in the district. This fall two of our board members, Nikki Metzger and Steve Jones, have decided to step away from their positions. We truly appreciate Nikki Metzger's willingness to assume her husband Gregg's seat following his death and her contributions to the board during the district's challenges over the past few years. She expresses her feelings about her service: "I'm honored to have served on the BOE for the last 3 years. I feel like the school district is getting back on track after years of financial difficulties, and I am very optimistic for that trend to continue and for Northwest to thrive in the years to come."

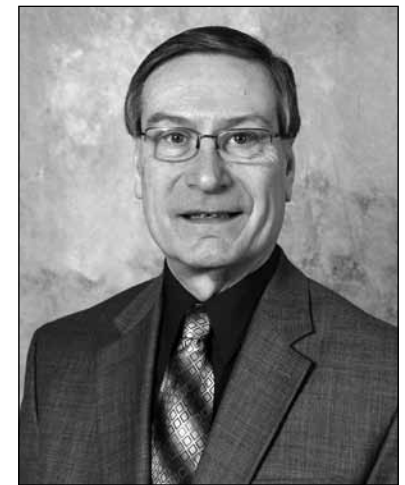
We also appreciate the dedication of Steve Jones over the past fourteen years. Superintendent Bill Stetler applauds his work: "During his tenure as a board member and board president, he demonstrated compassion for students, respect for district residents and staff, and a thoughtful analysis of the economic realities we faced. We are a better school district because of Steve Jones."

Jones speaks to the challenges the board faced: "Over the 14 years I served we faced many challenges from failed levy attempts to extremely difficult economic decisions which affected our employees, students and community. Seeing the divide in the communities we serve during this time was very painful and troubling."

He does point out with pride the accomplishments of the board, specifically the passage of the bond issue to build the new Northwest High School and Northwest Primary as well as "tremendous improvements being completed to the rest of our buildings at this time."



**Nikki Metzger**



**Steve Jones**

In his usual gracious style, Jones wishes to thank his family, fellow board members and the Northwest staff: "I would like to thank my wife Stephanie and daughters Amy and Angie for the support they provided during my 14 years on the board. One of the most rewarding things I did while on the board was being able to give my daughters a hug as I handed them their diploma at the high school graduation. Being able to share in that experience was something very special."

I also want to thank all of the people I shared the board table with over my 14 years. We didn't always see eye to eye on all of the issues facing us, but their commitment to providing better opportunities for the students of Northwest was never in doubt. I would also like to thank Superintendents Lambes and Stetler for the confidence they had in me and the respect they showed at all times.

The Northwest district is blessed with an outstanding staff of people who truly care about our students and want each of them to succeed. It has been a privilege to be associated with everyone at Northwest, and I wish each much success personally and professionally in the future."



# Athletic Charitable Committee

Supporting Athletics in our local Northwest community

## Annual Community Day Scheduled for January 29th

Community Day will be held at Northwest High School on January 29th from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m. Carnival foods will be served in the Commons; children's games, including bounce houses, will be available in the gym; and vendors will be stationed in the hallways where they will be selling their products. Please join us for an afternoon of fun!

## New Board Members to be Sworn in January 9<sup>th</sup>

On January 9th the Northwest Local School District will hold a Board of Education meeting in the high school choir room at 7 p.m. for its organizational meeting. New board members, John Hexamer and Steve Jones, will be sworn in at that time.

## Northwest to Honor Retiring Board Members

The Northwest Local Schools invites you to honor retiring board members Steve Jones and Nikki Metzger. The district will hold a reception on December 19 from 6-7:15 p.m. in the high school commons. Enjoy refreshments and socializing until 6:45 when the district will begin a half-hour long program of speakers and a special singing performance by the second-grade class.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

#### DECEMBER 15, 2011 –

Football Banquet  
at 6:00 pm in the HS Commons

#### MARCH 2012 –

Girls Softball Steak Fry  
at VFW – *more info to come*

#### SPRING 2012 –

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

### Calendar of Meetings

#### ACC –

1st Sunday of each month  
5:00 pm in the High School Commons

#### RUNNERS CLUB –

1st Sunday of each month  
4:00 pm in the Middle School Library

#### TOUCHDOWN CLUB –

1st Monday of each month  
7:00 pm at VFW

#### 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 at High School

#### LADY INDIANS BASKETBALL BOOSTERS –

2nd Monday of each month  
6:00 pm at Middle School Library

#### LADY INDIANS SOCCER –

2nd Thursday of each month  
6:30 pm at Middle School Library

#### GIRLS SOFTBALL BOOSTERS –

3rd Wednesday of each month  
6:00 pm at HS Commons



# Northwest News

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## 2011-12 INDIANS BOYS BASKETBALL

| DAY       | DATE     | OPPONENT               | SITE   | JV      | VARSITY |
|-----------|----------|------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| Tuesday   | 12/06/11 | TUSLAW                 | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Friday    | 12/09/11 | ST THOMAS AQUINAS      | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 12/13/11 | CANTON SOUTH           | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Friday    | 12/16/11 | AKRON NORTH            | Home   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 12/20/11 | COVENTRY               | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 12/27/11 | POTTER HOLIDAY CLASSIC | EL     | -----   | TBA     |
| Wednesday | 12/28/11 | POTTER HOLIDAY CLASSIC | EL     | -----   | TBA     |
| Friday    | 01/06/12 | AKRON KENMORE          | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 01/10/12 | BARBERTON              | Home   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Sunday    | 01/15/12 | STRONGSVILLE           | Hoover | -----   | 6:00 PM |
| Friday    | 01/20/12 | JACKSON                | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 01/24/12 | COPLEY                 | Home   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Saturday  | 01/28/12 | GLENOAK                | Home   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 01/31/12 | MARLINGTON             | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Friday    | 02/03/12 | CANTON CC              | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 02/07/12 | HOBAN                  | Home   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 02/14/12 | WASHINGTON             | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Saturday  | 02/18/12 | CARROLLTON             | Away   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 02/21/12 | FAIRLESS               | Home   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |
| Friday    | 02/24/12 | CANTON CC              | Home   | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM |

## 2011-12 FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL

| DAY       | DATE     | OPPONENT                   | SITE       | TIME     |
|-----------|----------|----------------------------|------------|----------|
| Monday    | 12/05/11 | FIRESTONE                  | Home       | 5:00 PM  |
| Thursday  | 12/08/11 | ST THOMAS AQUINAS          | Away       | 5:30 PM  |
| Monday    | 12/12/11 | COVENTRY                   | Away       | 6:00 PM  |
| Monday    | 12/19/11 | AKRON KENMORE              | Home       | 5:00 PM  |
| Thursday  | 12/22/11 | CANTON CC                  | Home       | 5:00 PM  |
| Tuesday   | 12/27/11 | DALTON                     | Manchester | 5:00 PM  |
| Friday    | 12/30/11 | MANCHESTER PANTHER CLASSIC | Manchester | 5:00 PM  |
| Thursday  | 01/05/12 | MANCHESTER                 | Away       | 5:00 PM  |
| Saturday  | 01/07/12 | NORTHWESTERN               | Away       | 10:00 AM |
| Monday    | 01/09/12 | WAYNE DALE                 | Home       | 5:00 PM  |
| Wednesday | 01/11/12 | AKRON NORTH                | Away       | 5:30 PM  |
| Saturday  | 01/14/12 | TUSLAW                     | Away       | 10:30 AM |
| Thursday  | 01/19/12 | CANTON CC                  | Away       | 5:30 PM  |
| Monday    | 01/23/12 | JACKSON HS                 | Home       | 5:00 PM  |
| Thursday  | 01/26/12 | AKRON KENMORE              | Away       | 6:00 PM  |
| Saturday  | 01/28/12 | NEW PHILADELPHIA           | Home       | 10:00 AM |
| Wednesday | 02/01/12 | ST THOMAS AQUINAS          | Home       | 5:00 PM  |
| Monday    | 02/06/12 | HOBAN                      | Home       | 5:00 PM  |
| Tuesday   | 02/14/12 | WASHINGTON                 | Away       | 4:30 PM  |
| Saturday  | 02/18/12 | CARROLLTON                 | Away       | 4:00 PM  |



**Varsity Boys Basketball:** (L-R): Head Coach Mike Lower, Statistician Jake Penrod, Brandon Freeman, Cody Fink, Carlos LeBron, Nick Riley, Kyle Stover, Michael Millard, Seth Duncan, Danny May, Ryan Brotherton, Statistician Matt Dudley, and JV Coach Andy Cocklin. *Sitting:* Ball Boy Ethan Lower

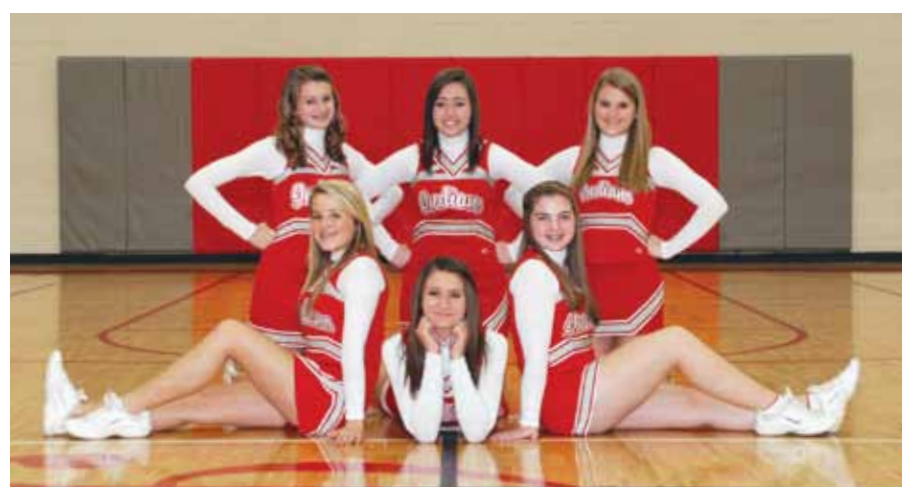


**Freshman Boys Basketball:** *Front Row (L-R):* Josh Albino, Brian Belles, Nick Hearn, Cory Earnsberger, and Adam Haswell. *Back Row (L-R):* Coach Dave Cooper, Jeff Shimko, Dale Hazzard, Alex Vales, Lawrence Ruthraff, and Michael Zervos.



**Junior Varsity Boys Basketball:** (L-R): Head Coach Mike Lower, Ryan Colby, Andrew Colon, Chad Hill, Jeremy Mundell, Nathan Haut, Jackson Schultz, Eric Ball, Anderson Russell, Tristan Mullane, Mack Ferrell, and JV Coach Andy Cocklin.

## 2011-12 INDIANS FRESHMAN CHEERLEADING



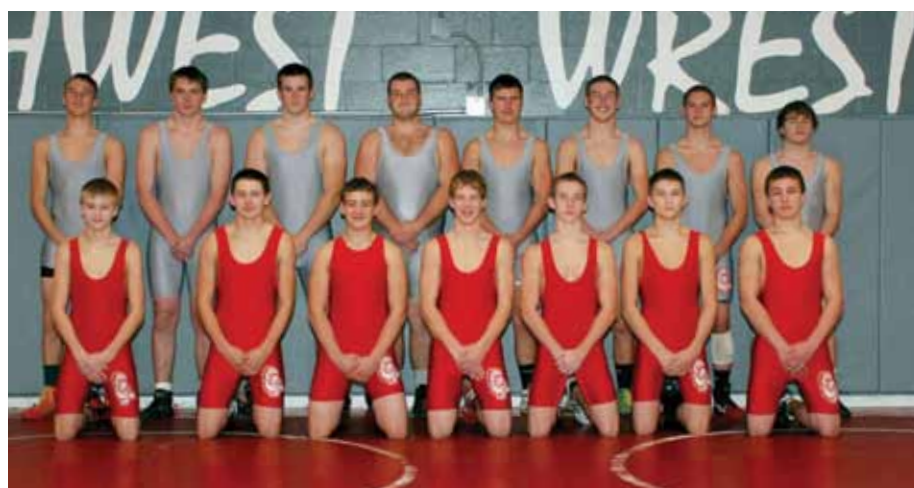
**Freshman Cheerleaders:** *Front Row (L-R):* Brooklyn Kapper, Molly Hollenbaugh, and Cassidy Spencer. *Back Row (L-R):* Lauren Stover, Molly Ogg, and Alexa Wise.

# 2011-2012 Winter Athletic Schedules



## 2011-12 INDIANS WRESTLING

| DAY       | DATE     | OPPONENT                    | SITE | TIME     |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------|------|----------|
| Saturday  | 12/3/11  | CAMBRIDGE POOL TOURNEY      | Away | 10:00 AM |
| Tuesday   | 12/6/11  | NW QUAD                     | Home | 6:00 PM  |
| Friday    | 12/9/11  | MARLINGTON DUALS            | Away | 4:00 PM  |
| Saturday  | 12/10/11 | MARLINGTON DUALS            | Away | 10:00 AM |
| Wednesday | 12/21/11 | NW QUAD                     | Home | 6:00 PM  |
| Friday    | 12/30/11 | SALEM TOURNEY               | Away | TBA      |
| Saturday  | 1/7/12   | CONN'S DUALS at MEADOWBROOK | Away | 10:00 AM |
| Friday    | 1/20/12  | BILL DIES TOURNAMENT        | Away | 5:00 PM  |
| Saturday  | 1/21/12  | BILL DIES TOURNAMENT        | Away | 9:00 AM  |
| Saturday  | 1/21/12  | BILL DIES TOURNAMENT        | Away | 6:00 PM  |
| Saturday  | 1/28/12  | EUCLID DUAL TOURNEY         | Away | 10:00 AM |
| Thursday  | 2/9/12   | NW TRI                      | Home | 6:00 PM  |



**Wrestling:** Front Row (L-R): Brandon Caldwell, Chuck Kirkpatrick, Chris Jackson, Matt Oakes, Josh Waddle, and Dylan Causman. Back Row (L-R): Justin Smith, Tim Fitzwater, Tyler Bowman, Jerrad Cox, Eddie Ayers, Brandon King, Bryan Pawlyk, and Kyle Harris. Not Pictured: Jason Cheshire, Paul Wellman, Robby Meismer, Elijah Morrison, Ryan Murgatroyd, and Brady Kapper.

## 2011-12 INDIANS VARSITY AND JV CHEERLEADING



**Varsity Cheerleaders:** Front Row (L-R): Cara Crawford, Nicole Devine, Marisa Zink, Aly Lindic, and Madalyn Hawthorn. Back Row (L-R): Kasey Pagani, Kelsey Kincaid, Aspen Fink, Olivia Hensal, and Brittany Wolf.



**Junior Varsity Cheerleaders:** Front Row (L-R): Abby Cundiff, Marlena Samples, and Alli Loretto. Back Row (L-R): Jessica Eicher, Jacki White, Marissa Crasi, and Farrah Graves.

## 2011-12 INDIANS GIRLS BASKETBALL

| DAY       | DATE     | OPPONENT          | SITE  | JV      | VARSIITY |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|-------|---------|----------|
| Friday    | 11/25/11 | ST THOMAS AQUINAS | Away  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Saturday  | 11/26/11 | SOLON             | Green | -----   | 1:45 PM  |
| Tuesday   | 11/29/11 | NORWAYNE          | Home  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Thursday  | 12/01/11 | ORRVILLE          | Away  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Wednesday | 12/07/11 | HOBAN             | Home  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Wednesday | 12/14/11 | MASSILLON         | Perry | -----   | 6:00 PM  |
| Saturday  | 12/17/11 | MAYOR'S CUP       | Perry | -----   | 1:00 PM  |
| Wednesday | 12/21/11 | CUYAHOGA FALLS    | Away  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Thursday  | 12/29/11 | WEST BRANCH       | Away  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Wednesday | 01/04/12 | DOVER             | Away  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Monday    | 01/09/12 | GREEN             | Home  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Saturday  | 01/14/12 | CLAYMONT          | Away  | 1:00 PM | 2:30 PM  |
| Wednesday | 01/18/12 | JACKSON           | Home  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Saturday  | 01/21/12 | HILLSDALE         | Away  | 1:00 PM | 2:30 PM  |
| Saturday  | 01/28/12 | BARBERTON         | Away  | 1:00 PM | 2:30 PM  |
| Wednesday | 02/01/12 | LAKE              | Home  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Saturday  | 02/04/12 | GLENOAK           | Away  | 1:00 PM | 2:30 PM  |
| Wednesday | 02/08/12 | WASHINGTON        | Home  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |
| Saturday  | 02/11/12 | CANTON SOUTH      | Home  | 1:00 PM | 3:30 PM  |
| Thursday  | 02/16/12 | CHIPPEWA          | Away  | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM  |



**Varsity Girls Basketball:** Front Row (L-R): Shelby Booth, Courtney Sandmann, Rachel deGuia, and Tess Serb. Back Row (L-R): Head Coach Donnie Schenz, Varsity Assistant Coach Eric Stookey, Kirstin Mitchen, Kayla Ley, Amanda Crites, Jordan Smith, Leandra Martin, Jessica Boecker, Jenna Worden, JV Assistant Coach Heather Plotner, and JV Head Coach Rich Harland.



**Junior Varsity Girls Basketball:** Front Row (L-R): Hannah Brotherton, Jenna Worden, Kayla Ley, Serafina Kirkpatrick, Jessica Boecker, and Viviana Albino. Back Row (L-R): JV Head Coach Rich Harland, Kirstin Mitchen, Michele McPerry, Emma Canfield, Angela Casalinova, Sara Kosa, Cierra Snyder, and JV Assistant Coach Heather Plotner.

# and Team Photos



# Northwest News

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## Northwest Continues to Go Green

Many residents have asked about the excavation that is taking place by the high school baseball field and football practice field. As part of the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission projects at Stinson Elementary and Northwest Middle School, these two sites will house geothermal wells or ground source heat pumps to heat



and cool the school buildings. Both schools will have 140 wells in each of their well fields, for a total of 280. The expected start-up dates for each system will be in the fall of 2012. The wells circulate water through pipes in the wells to soak up heat from the earth during the winter months and transmit it to the school buildings where electric-powered pumps are located. In the summer, the reverse takes place.

These pumps are environmentally friendly and offer great savings to the district. According to Richard Lutz, President of Lawrence and Dykes Architects, using geothermal energy will allow the district to save money



in energy costs. "The calculations are done from a theoretical base line building compared to a theoretical completed building. They are as follows:

## Facilities Project on Schedule at Middle School and Elementary



The facilities project is continuing on schedule. Middle school students moved to their new classrooms in

November, and landscaping has been completed outside the building. Construction at Stinson Elementary remains on schedule as well.

Construction of the high school gymnasium has been delayed by the need to relocate a main gas line that serves two housing developments close to the school campus. According to Contractor Tony Ignazio, the delay will mean that the completion of the high school gym will be moved back to late November 2012.

The remodeling of the middle school gymnasium and the delay of the new high school gym will create a challenge for indoor sporting events. According to Athletic Director Gary Woods, the high school and middle school volleyball games will be played in the auxiliary gym while basketball games will be rescheduled as away games until the gym is completed. The high school gym could be completed earlier if mild weather allows construction to continue this winter.

### **NORTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

Baseline Energy Costs = **\$108,657** per year  
Completed Energy Costs = **\$53,475** per year

### **STINSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**

Baseline Energy Costs = **\$112,649** per year  
Completed Energy Costs = **\$59,423** per year

The Internal Ground Source Heat Pump Association says that ground source heat pumps offer quiet, efficient cooling and heating with individual room controls. In addition, pipes have a 50 year life expectancy and a ground heat exchanger which has a life expectancy of 40 years, all of which mean comfort for students and additional savings to the school district.



# National Honor Society Inducts New Members

Northwest High School recently inducted 19 members into its National Honor Society, students who exemplify the qualities of character, scholarship, leadership and service.

## High School Roof Repairs Completed

The Northwest High School roof has been repaired. The problems have been corrected, and the roof has been replaced with superior, longer lasting materials. Superintendent Bill Stetler states, "I am thankful that the problem is solved. The result is that the high school roof is no longer leaking, and the building has a roof of better quality."

### **Jordan West**

Jordan is the son of Craig and Sheryl West.

### **Ryan Tichon**

Ryan is the son of Denise and John Tichon.

### **Kyle Stover**

Kyle is the son of Michelle and Todd Stover.

### **Ellie Stockert**

Ellie is the daughter of Jim and Mary Stockert.

### **Jennifer Shimko**

Jennifer is the daughter of Bob and Tess Shimko.

### **Zia Schrader**

Zia is the daughter of Rick and Nancy Schrader.

### **Lindsey Rossiter**

Lindsey is the daughter of Donna and Bryan Rossiter.

### **Kate Nypaver**

Kate is the daughter of Debbie and Dave Nypaver.

### **Natalie Nicholson**

Natalie is the daughter of Marie and Frank Nicholson.

### **Hannah Millard**

Hannah is the daughter of Brian and Terry Millard.

### **Sarah Lavery**

Sarah is the daughter of Georgette and Dan Lavery.

### **Heidi Knight**

Heidi is the daughter of Tim and Diane Knight.

### **KaraNina Kapper**

KaraNina is the daughter of Richard and Dana Kapper.

### **Bradley Hoffman**

Bradley is the son of Craig and Missie Hoffman.

### **Joseph Hillegass**

Joe is the son of Harry and Brenda Hillegass.

### **Jordan Bowman**

Jordan is the daughter of Sherry and Jeffrey Bowman.

### **Olivia Benitez**

Olivia is the daughter of Leann and Michael Benitez.

### **Mark Bell**

Mark is the son of Mark and Mary Bell.

### **Kylie Begue**

Kylie is the daughter of Melanie Begue and John Juersivich.



# Northwest News

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## OAPSE Contract Settled

The Northwest Board of Education and O.A.P.S.E. Chapter #229 have reached an agreement for a new contract through June of 2015. The contract calls for no increases in salary, resulting in a total of 6 consecutive years of salary freezes. Superintendent Bill Stetler says, "This contract is a result of the employees and Board working together in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation for the benefit of our students, community and employees. The district wants to thank our employees for diligently serving our students. The Northwest community is fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring staff." O.A.P.S.E. President Nancy Ebner adds, "Our workforce is exceptional, and we are willing to negotiate in the best interests of everyone involved. Northwest Local is a great example of how collective bargaining works."

## Canton Ballet Performs for Children

The Arts Committee of Northwest Schools brought the Canton Ballet to perform for children in grades 2-5 on December 2 at Puffenberger Hall. With the district's cutback on field trips, the Arts Committee brought an enrichment program to the school district, as students learned about ballet and watched excerpts from *The Nutcracker*.



## National Merit Commended Student



Meghan Fennell, pictured with Principal Eric Bornstine, has been named a National Merit Commended Student for the 2011-2012 school year.



# District Refinances Remaining Bonds to Bring Savings to 1.5 Million Dollars

Northwest Treasurer Dan Levensgood reports that in January the district will refinance the remaining bonds that were originally sold in 2002. The bonds total approximately \$5.5 million, and the district expects to save \$540,000 or 7.3 percent through this process. These bonds were sold to finance the local share of the construction of Northwest Primary and Northwest High Schools.

Over the last two years, the district has refinanced \$12 million of the bonds, saving the district over \$900,000.

Although Standard and Poor's recently gave the district an A rating on the previous bond issue, the school district is required to undergo another rating call with S & P. An informational document called "The Official Statement" is prepared to provide investors with information on Northwest Local Schools and the community. Once the document is completed, an electronic copy will be on the Northwest website.

The refinancing of the bonds has saved the district approximately \$1.5 million.

## Costs are Down in New Bus Garage

Gas prices have had a negative effect on everyone's budget, but thoughtful, responsible management has kept the Northwest District's transportation department in the black. How has the district succeeded in these trying times? The answer is simple: careful maintenance of a reduced bus fleet and the rerouting of buses to save mileage.

Transportation Coordinator Ray Gesaman explains, "We have not purchased a new school bus since April 2006. Since that time we have completely taken out of service 9 school buses from the bus fleet. Fleet size has gone from 31 vehicles down to 22 vehicles. As we look at purchasing two new school buses, one special needs and one route bus, we will be retiring a 1998 special needs bus with over 275,000 miles."

The Northwest Board of Education had eliminated high school busing two years ago, which led to reduced routes. A careful analysis of the number of bus riders led board members to recommend that any open seats on district buses be made available to high school students. Through the efforts of the high school administration and Gesaman, all high school students who applied for these open seats

have been accommodated with no additional cost to the district.

The Ohio Department of Education's Division of School Finance operation cost analysis of pupil transportation in the Northwest Local Schools reveals that in the school year of 2006-2007, the district spent roughly \$83,000 on fuel, and the 26 buses covered about 207,000 miles for the year. Total cost of operation was approximately \$834,000. In the 2007-2008 school year, facing rising fuel prices, the district spent \$115,600 on fuel with a mileage of 202,500 miles. The total cost of the operation was \$859,400. In the 2009-2010 school year, the most recent report available from the Ohio Department of Education indicates fuel costs dropped to \$72,400 with buses traveling only 158,000 miles.

**The total cost of operating the transportation department was down to roughly \$607,000, a savings of over \$200,000 from the 2006-2007 school year and about \$250,000 from the 2007-2008 school year.**

The Northwest Transportation Department has proven itself to be a careful guardian of taxpayer money thanks to its efficient and effective management.



# Northwest News

*Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education*



## Northwest Local Celebrates Veterans Day

Northwest Primary School students and staff celebrated Veterans Day by welcoming veterans to the school to be honored. They also recognized Kathy Crabtree, a teacher at Stinson. Mrs. Crabtree's husband, Daniel, was killed in 2006 while serving in Iraq. She received flowers and a check for \$150, which was made out to the Northwest Teachers' Association Scholarship Fund in his memory.

The Northwest High School Student Council also recognized local veterans at their annual ceremony on November 11th. Veterans and active service members from all branches of the military were honored.



Principal LaRiccia, Kathy Crabtree and Linda Holl



Assistant Principal Scott Burnett welcomes NHS grads, Pvt. First Class Lee Stefaniak and Cadet E-F Will Grimmett, to Veterans Day program.



U.S. Marine Veteran Don Maurer

