

# YOUR SCHOOLS

2013

Aurora City School District

## From the Superintendent

By **RUSS BENNETT**  
Superintendent of Schools



Each spring is met with a flurry of activities and events here at Aurora City Schools and this spring was no exception. Spring lends itself to the completion

of testing, student academic acknowledgements, spring sports, sad goodbyes inevitably followed by happy hellos, and, of course, all of the senior activities enjoyed by our Aurora High School graduating class of 2013. Our spring was filled with accomplishment on many different levels.

As a district we have excelled again. We recently received top rankings in two prominent publications: *U.S. News and World Report* (**#10 in Ohio**) and *The Washington Post* (**#15 in Ohio**). We have also received the Ohio Department of Education's Excellent with Distinction ranking and have earned the Excellent honor for the 12th year in a row. The Aurora Schools' Music Department has been recognized by NAMM, a national music organization, as one of the "2013 Best Communities for Music Education." This national honor was given to only 307 School District Music Departments across the country. These prestigious designations are something that don't come easily and I am extremely

*See Superintendent p. 2*

## Aurora City School District Announces Top Rankings

The Aurora City School District is proud to announce our top rankings as reported by both the *U.S. News and World Report* and *The Washington Post* publications. Aurora High School was cited by these news sources as top rated in both the State of Ohio and nationally.

*U.S. News and World Report's Best High Schools in Ohio* rankings listed Aurora High School as #10 in the State of Ohio. A total of 21,035 U.S. public high schools were reviewed for the report. Of those, 234 Ohio schools appeared in the rankings with Aurora ranked at #10. To be eligible for a state ranking a school must be awarded a national gold or silver medal. Aurora High School was awarded a Gold Medal in the national rankings with a rank of **#307** out of the 21,035 high schools.

For a complete listing of the U.S. News and World Report Best High Schools in Ohio rankings, please go to: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/ohio/districts/aurora-city/aurora-high-school-15676?int=c0b4c1>.

Aurora High School was also ranked as **#15** in the State of Ohio and **#496** nationally by *The Washington Post* in their *America's Most Challenging High Schools 2013* report. A complete list of their school rankings can be found at: <http://apps.washingtonpost.com/local/highschoolchallenge/schools/2013/list/ohio-schools/>.

Mike Roberto, principal of Aurora High School, said when asked about the

rankings, "We were very happy to be recognized on a national level by the *U.S. News & World Report* as a Gold Medal School. Our ranking of 10th in Ohio (out of 892 high schools) and 307th in the country (out of over 21,000 public high schools ranked) puts us well within the top 2% of high schools in both categories. It is something to celebrate and I am proud of the students and staff for their accomplishments.

One of the measures of success *U.S. News & World Report* used was the number of AP or Advanced Placement (College Level) classes our students took in comparison to their success in qualifying for college credit. Our students do very well in these rigorous courses and this past year 85% of the students taking an AP course scored high enough on their AP exam to qualify for college credit. This is not only an impressive achievement for the students and school but a potentially large savings for the parents.

The Gold Medal is a nice feather in our cap, but is not the driving force

*See Rankings p. 3*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From The Superintendent.....	1	International Scholars at Aurora HS .....	3	Class Acts .....	6
Aurora City School District Announces		Classified Staff Awards Announced .....	3	Sport Report.....	7
Top Ratings.....	1	AHS Outstanding Greenmen.....	3	Aurora Schools - Excellent with Distinction. 7	
AHS Writing Center .....	2	Who's Who & What's New .....	4	Dads-n-Donuts Sugary Smiles All Around.....	8
AAA Class Reunions .....	2	Top 10 Seniors/Class of 2013 .....	5	Fish Fry "Caught" On.....	8

*Superintendent - Continued from p. 1*

proud of the collective efforts of our staff, students, parents, volunteers and community members that make this kind of success and national recognition happen.

As we continually monitor our safety needs, we incorporate changes as needed. This past spring we instituted several additional safety procedures. We have modified some of our school building entrances by relocating the entry door “buzzers” to the outside of the building and instituted a drop off area in the school building’s air lock for parents to bring forgotten items.

Our staff always seems to rise to the occasion and I want to especially congratulate our district Excellence in Classified and Teaching Award winners this year, Maggie Cooke and Gayle Lewis. We are truly lucky to have such dedicated staff members in our midst.

I want to also personally congratulate our retirees, Diane Dobes, Deanna McCarrell, Kathy Novak, Jim Nussbaum and Sandy Vlasak. Thank you for being instrumental in making our district the wonderful place that it is. There are so many staff accomplishments it is hard to list them all here. You can find more staff highlights throughout this *Your Schools* issue.

Our student’s creativity, caring, and talent never ceases to amaze me. Our art department had 38 Gold Keys and 33 Silver Keys along with three Gold Portfolio winners in the Northeast Central Ohio Scholastic Art Awards. Our theatrical productions included *The Little Shop of Horrors* musical and *The Real Story of Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Ever After*, which were highlighted by some amazing talent. How about our baseball team? What a

tremendous season they enjoyed while setting AHS baseball history by making it all the way to the State Final Four Competition. Their journey filled us with excitement and pride. Our district also proudly graduated 233 seniors on May 30, 2013 and we wish them the best of luck in all that the future holds for them. Congratulations to all of the seniors that earned a whopping combined total of \$4,854,252 in scholarship money this year!

Not surprisingly, this has been yet another high achieving school year for our district. I want to thank everyone whose hard work and dedication make our achievements possible. Looking forward to our 2013-14 school year, if this past year is any indication, we have many more great things to accomplish together.

## AAA UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

### MULTI-CLASS 1958-1972

Highlighting Class of 1968’s 45th Reunion - July 27, 2013 at the Aurora Inn  
Contact: Sharon Crowder Gimmerling at gimp711@aol.com

### CLASS OF 1963

50th Reunion – October 12, 2013  
Contact: Bob Harris at raharris@windstream.net

### CLASS OF 1983

30th Reunion – October 12, 2013  
at the Bertram Inn and Conference Center  
Contact: Mary Beckstrom at jeff\_beckstrom@yahoo.com

### CLASS OF 1993

20th Reunion –  
Bertram Inn and Conference Center  
Contact: Suzanne Habbyshaw Wahlstrom at suzannewahlstrom@gmail.com

## AHS Writing Center

Aurora High School (AHS) has partnered with Kent State University’s (KSU) Education Department to provide writing tutorial services at the new AHS Writing Center that debuted last fall. Six KSU junior English majors provided the tutoring three days a week utilizing a one-on-one setting. Students with writing projects from any academic discipline were encouraged to visit the writing center during their lunch/study periods to take advantage of the learning opportunity with the goal of producing better writers. The center is set to resume in the fall of 2013 using senior members of the National Honor Society. These students were trained in tutoring techniques at the KSU writing center. Tutoring services from KSU students may resume in the spring semester depending on financial funding.

Aurora School Board President Jerry Kohanski was instrumental in bringing this program to the high school. He said, “Writing skills are the foundation for academic and future career success. Our AHS students not only benefitted from the KSU students’ writing tutoring but also received valuable instruction and preparation in how to conduct academic research at the college level. We’re hopeful that we’ll be able to continue this partnership with KSU in the future.”



(Back, Left to Right) Cory Bianco, Connor Bowen, Brian Poremba, Jarett Mazanec and Sam Flowers get help from KSU tutors (Front, Left to Right) Desiree Boardwine and Thomas Williams.



## YOUR SCHOOLS

Published by the Aurora City School District  
102 East Garfield Road • Aurora, Ohio 44202  
Editor: Stacey DeAnna

*Your Schools* is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

*Your Schools* has been awarded the “Mark of Excellence” and “Best of the Best” Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.

## International Scholars at Aurora High School

Aurora High School hosted four international scholars in conjunction with the Kent State University's International Leaders in Education (ILEP) program. Our visiting scholars

this spring were Muhammad Hasyim from Indonesia, Mila Rose Librea from the Philippines, Ricardo Sales from Brazil and Robinah Zawedde from Uganda. During their internship, which ran until the end of May, they observed American public education and had the opportunity to teach in the classrooms. Their host teachers were Monika Biro, Barb Cook, Conni Hilston and Rose Brown.

Hasyim said, "...I believe that as a teacher I can make a difference for my students." Librea is a science teacher in her native country and observed, "Your students, I think, are quite very responsible, when it comes to studying because I can see how attentive they are... they are on-task. You really have this access to technology and that's what is



(Left to Right) Mila Rose Librea, Ricardo Sales, Robinah Zawedde, Muhammad Hasyim

lacking back home. We may have come to one of the coldest places, but we have met the warmest people." Sales, who said that he contracted polio at the age of 9 months explained, "But I believe the way that I face life is probably

different because people around me, not treat me different, but show me that I'm equal. This is one of the reasons I am here in the United States and it's a nice moment in my life. I believe I can inspire people in my country to do the same and do things better." He added that AHS, "It's like a private school in my country. You have quality, you have many activities and the students act like different... they are very responsible. We don't see in our student this kind of commitment. So it's something that I find very interesting." Zawedde, an English teacher, added, "The people here will make you love it. They have been very much willing to help us. They've made us feel at home here in the U.S. Despite the weather we feel at home."

• *Rankings — Continued from p. 1*

• behind what goes on at Aurora High. Our goal of nurturing our students to become better problem solvers and critical thinkers along with continuing to work toward increasing their ability to collaborate and communicate with others helps them to develop the skills they need to succeed outside of the walls of Aurora High School. I believe this national recognition is a by-product of those driving forces."

## AHS OUTSTANDING GREENMEN 2013

• Congratulations to the recipients of the 2013 Outstanding Greenmen Award. The Outstanding Greenmen Award is given to only 12 deserving seniors who are chosen based on their strong Academics, Service/Work, School Participation, Leadership and Character.



• *Front Row: John Eacott, Justin Bunka, Mitchell Moravec, Sean Lambert, Matthew Gardner. 2nd Row: Kelly Fussner, Michaela Ritz, Lindsay Pizzurro, Rachael Davis, Deanna Fyffe, Thuy Le, Zoe Nietert, Conni Hilston, Melissa Lindley. 3rd Row: Alicia Jimenez, Sarah Dixon, Erin McNamara, Sean Berrodin, Bob Mihalik, Dave Munson, DeAnna McCarrell, Chris Radtke, Laura Bell-Peters, Toni Taylor*

## CLASSIFIED STAFF AWARDS ANNOUNCED

### MAGGIE COOKE EXCELLENCE IN CLASSIFIED STAFF AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Maggie Cooke for winning the 2013 Excellence in Classified Service Award. Cooke, a Health Aide at Harmon School since 1999, was nominated by Karen Myers, a 6th grade language arts instructor. Myers said, "I feel the most outstanding trait of Maggie's is how she handles some of what I consider very difficult situations." She explained that after a student acts out, Maggie "...calmly uses strategies to calm the students. And after all that, shows them love and helps provide a nurturing, loving environment. Maggie is a role model and represents Aurora City Schools in an exemplary way."

### GAYLE LEWIS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD WINNER

Aurora High School Spanish Teacher Gayle Lewis has been awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2012-13. She was nominated by her colleague, AHS Social Studies Teacher Chris Radtke, who wrote, "Gayle Lewis is a great example to teachers and aspiring teachers as to what being a professional educator is all about. She is an outstanding teacher, a caring colleague and an advocate for students here at AHS." She is involved in many activities that occur inside and outside of the classroom including, teaching IB and AP Spanish and working as an active Building Improvement Team member. She also "keeps over 200 seniors moving in the right direction toward their graduation as senior class advisor," Radtke explained. "Gayle also organizes participation (like the upcoming None Under 21 Rally) in activities that are truly important to teenagers in this building. With others in the foreign language department, she also organizes and chaperones trips to Spain for our students. Gayle Lewis is one of the most valuable members of the teaching staff here at Aurora High School and richly deserves this honor," Radtke added.

## Who's Who & What's New

**ANNIE WALKER** and our **QUIZ BOWL TEAM** returned from competition with the overall Portage County Quiz Bowl Title for at least the 12th straight year.

Congratulations to Aurora High School student **ROBERT PIGZA** who won First Place for his colored pencil drawing entitled "Stress" at the **BEACHWOOD ARTS COUNCIL'S 18th ANNUAL JURIED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SHOW**.

Each year the **AMERICAN LEGION** and the **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 803 POST and UNIT** sponsor qualified students from AHS to attend the **BUCKEYE GIRLS** and **BOYS STATE** programs, an annual one week summer educational opportunity that informs the students about the duties, privileges, right and responsibilities of American Citizenship. This year's AHS delegates for Girls State are: **KALI BACHMAN, ELIZABETH DOMECK, and NIKKI HURLBUT**. The **BUCKEYE BOYS STATE** delegates are: **JACOB DELIS, MICHAEL NEMETH, and CAMERON SCHNELL**.

Aurora's new frozen yogurt shop, **THE LATEST SCOOP**, displayed artwork created by 3rd graders, **FAITH CARLSON, NATALIE DAVET, JOSEPH FELICE, LIBBY HARTENBURG, LOGAN KEILIN** and 5th graders, **MACY BUEHNER, FREDDIE FREEMAN, SARA GERBER, MAKENNA KISH** and **MELANIE PALCISKO**.

The **LEIGHTON SCHOOL'S ROBOTICS TEAM** finished their season by winning the Motivate Award. Great job!



*Leighton School's Robotics Team*

**HARMON SCHOOL'S POWER OF THE PEN TEAM** competed at the **GARFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT** where the eighth grade team came in first place and the seventh grade team

took third place. In addition, **QUINLAN CUSTODIO**, and **KATHRYN SLATES** each won best of round. **SARAH ZHANG** took second place.

Congratulations to **APRIL NENADAL** and her **SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM** who not only took 2nd place in competition and earned a trip to compete at the State level, but returned from Columbus with a fantastic 19th place finish at the State Tournament. Way to go!

**DEBBIE MEHALLIS' DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAM**, made up of **SARAH GANG, KATIE GORDON, OLIVIA GROHE, SAMANTHA GROHE, LYDIA HOLMAN, LEXI MEHALLIS, and NATALIE PICONE** won the State Championship in Mt. Vernon on April 20, 2013. They went on to compete in Knoxville, TN at the global competition.



*Mark Wade and Leighton helps*

The **SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS** provided live webcast coverage of their 90th award ceremony from New York City on May 31, 2013 where AHS students **ALEX CONCES** and **ERIN OULTON** received their **NATIONAL SILVER MEDALS**. **NICOLE LUCAS** also earned a **GOLD MEDAL**. Congratulations to instructors **BRIAN CAPONI** and **SEAN BERRODIN** for all of their efforts that led to three national award winning pieces of art.

The **AURORA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION** has announced their 2013 scholarship recipients. They are: **MADDIE GILEY** - Sonal Sanghani Diversity Scholarship, **MITCHELL KATONA** - Sonal Sanghani Diversity Scholarship, **KAITLIN MACINTYRE** - Aurora Bicentennial Scholarship, **RACHAEL SCHWARTZ** - Linda Allenspach Scholarship, and

**MICHAELLA NAHRA** - Aurora Schools Foundation.

The raffle drawing for the **2013 CHEVY CAMARO** donated by **TIM LALLY CHEVROLET/THE CHEVY NETWORK** was held on the evening of May 20, 2013. Congratulations to the winner, **ROD GRIFFITH**, and student **SAVANNAH ALONSO**, who sold him the winning ticket. Thank you to **MIKE** and **KIM LALLY** for supporting our schools with their generosity. All ticket sale proceeds (over \$22,000) will benefit various student organizations at our schools. Thank you to all of the students who sold raffle tickets and to the community for supporting this fundraiser.



*Congratulations to the Griffith family!*

Congratulations and best of luck to **MATT GARDNER** who was awarded a scholarship from the **U. S. ARMY** totaling \$200,320.

While they will be missed, we wish the best of luck to our **RETIREES: DIANE DOBES, DEANNA MCCARRELL, KATHY NOVAK, JIM NUSSBAUM** and **SANDY VLASAK**. Thank you for being instrumental in making our district the wonderful place that it is.

Thank you to our hard working **PTO** for their generous gift of a brand new set of swings and basketball hoops for our Miller School students.



## TOP TEN SENIORS



**Daniel Chen**  
*Valedictorian* (GPA 4.485)  
 Princeton - Optimization Research  
 Financial Engineering



**Siddharth Mandava**  
*Salutatorian* (GPA 4.431)  
 Claremont McKenna -  
 Pre-Medicine & Economics



**Thuy Le**  
 (GPA 4.3)  
 Dartmouth College -  
 Biochemistry



**Austin Hayes**  
 (GPA 4.277)  
 Rochester Institute of  
 Technology - Alternative Energy  
 Engineering/Biochemistry



**Brandon Hayes**  
 (GPA 4.277)  
 Rochester Institute of  
 Technology - Molecular Biology



**Michaela Ritz**  
 (GPA 4.261)  
 Northwestern University -  
 Human Communication Sciences  
 w/ Concentration in Neuroscience



**Mitchell Moravec**  
 (GPA 4.26)  
 North Carolina State University -  
 Engineering, Civil



**Rachael Davis**  
 (GPA 4.25)  
 University of Connecticut -  
 Pre-Dentistry



**Elizabeth Voyzey**  
 (GPA 4.238)  
 The Ohio State University -  
 Undecided

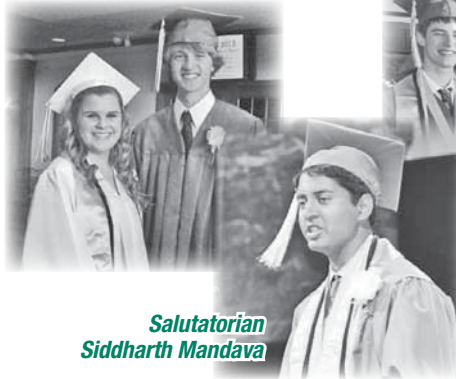


**Caroline Boehm**  
 (GPA 4.204)  
 University of Pennsylvania -  
 Neuroscience, Chemistry

## SENIORS - CLASS OF 2013

The Aurora City School District's School Board, administration and staff would like to congratulate all of our 233 graduates in the Aurora High School Class of 2013.

### Senior Commencement Ceremony



*Salutatorian  
 Siddharth Mandava*



#### Senior Class Motto:

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

### Memorable Moments for Aurora Schools' Class of 2013

#### Prom



*Prom Queen Lindsay Pizzurro and King Shawn Lambert*



#### Senior Breakfast

## PRESCHOOL GRADUATION PICNIC

The Aurora City School District's School Board, administration and staff would like to congratulate all of our youngest 2013 graduates.



## CLASS ACTS

Leighton School Counselor **Cynthia Curry** was instrumental in the creation of a **Leighton Book Club** which met monthly to discuss their book choice on mean girls that came about as a follow-up to the popular **PCF meeting** dealing with the same topic.

Aurora Schools' Physical Education Teacher **Stacey Slackford-Barnes**, with the help of high school instructors **Mike Rubin** and **Dave Munson**, were able to raise enough



*Caleb Slackford with the bear he received as a patient at Akron Children's Hospital.*

money to donate 120 **Build-A-Bears** and a total of \$350 to the **Akron Children's Hospital**. Over the past 5 years, the Aurora School District has donated over 400 Build-A-Bears to the children at the hospital and about \$3,850.00 in cash! Thank you high school seniors who got the bears ready for delivery.

Instructor **Conni Hilston** and Aurora High School Principal **Mike Roberto** visited Washington D.C. from February 14 -16, 2013 to take part in the **Teachers for Global Classrooms Program's** Global Education Symposium, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. They are part of a group of 160 teachers, school principals and district administrators who were selected to participate in the symposium. Conni traveled to Brazil this summer.

The **L810 Studio** is now up and running and the **L810 Crew**, made up of 3rd -5th graders, has been busy in production. One of their latest collaborations is an Ohio Achievement Assessment parody on the song "Gangnam Style." To take a look at the studio in action, go to: [http://www.youtube.com/playlist?feature=edit\\_ok&list=PLCD4lasUWahIDeMNL2vQzfGN3FUcopHt](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?feature=edit_ok&list=PLCD4lasUWahIDeMNL2vQzfGN3FUcopHt).

The Ohio State Legislature set aside Monday, May 6, 2013 as **School Bus Driver Recognition Day**. Their care and dedication make it possible for students in our district to be transported safely to school every day. A great big "Thank You" to all of our bus drivers for all you do!

The **Aurora Schools' Music Department** has been recognized by the national music organization **NAMM**, as one of the "2013 Best Communities for Music Education". This honor was given to only 307 school district music departments nationwide. Congratulations go to our music department instructors **Jason Burdett**, **Sarah Dixon** and **Lindsay Draime** for this national honor.



Congratulations to Aurora students: **Nicholas Barnoski**, **Tyler Flynn**, **Danielle Lasky**, **Molly Lukehart**, **Brandon Slechta**, **Amber Steinberger**, **Kenneth Tyler**, **Anthony Vella**, and **Katy Yanda** for their outstanding awards and achievements in the **Excel TECC program**.

**Aurora High School Physics students** recently spent a day at **GE Healthcare** located here in Aurora. Highlighting the visit was a presentation on Magnetic Resonance Imaging delivered by **Dr. Robert Brown**, a Case Western Reserve University professor and a chance for students to dialogue with several GE engineers involved in the design and development of MRI equipment.

Craddock School 3rd Grader **Amelia Taylor** had an idea; let students create a lunch menu for a day. She went to Cafeteria Supervisor **Karen Andexler** and a survey of favorite foods was created (keeping in mind food group balance and nutrition). Students then voted for their favorites. The votes were tallied and the results were featured as the school's May 9th lunch menu. The lunch consisted of pancakes, french fries, grapes, salad, and Oreos.



*Karen Andexler and Amelia Taylor*

Congratulations to **Sean Berrodin** and **Brian Caponi** as our AHS Art Department had another outstanding showing at the **Northeast Central Ohio Scholastic Art Competition**. Seventeen of our art students earned 38 Gold Keys and 33 students received Silver Keys for their work. The three AHS Gold Portfolio winners were **Erin Oulton**, **Kristen Hirter**, and **Cydney Parr** with **Erin Oulton** earning overall "Best of Show." For a complete listing of

these students and their awards, please visit our district website at [www.aurora-schools.org](http://www.aurora-schools.org).

Leighton School students competed in an **Energy Conservation Poster Contest** organized by **Lois Girbino**, the art teacher at Leighton. **Hailey Kostal's** poster was the winning entry.



On February 12, 2013, Aurora City School's top math students competed in the **Portage County Educational Service Center Math 24 Competition**.



*Math 24 Competition Team Members*

Special congratulations to 8th grader **Samantha Grohe** and 4th grader **Sean Fritinger** who were the overall 1st place winners in their grade levels.



Superintendent **Russ Bennett** was featured as one of the speakers at **Harmon School's**

**Career Presentations**. Other speakers included, **Brad Dennis**, engineer Nestle; **Shona Doemling**, registered nurse Cleveland Clinic; **Amy Papesch**, lawyer Elk & Elk; and **Sharon Hermanowski**, registered dietician & nutritionist.

Over 60 students at AHS had the chance to hear



Holocaust survivor and human rights/tolerance speaker **Shulamit Bastacky**. She related stories from childhood experiences as a Holocaust survivor.

The Aurora Elementary Schools are holding a **Book Drive** to benefit the new **Little Free Libraries** that will be appearing throughout the Aurora community this summer. We need lots and lots of books to fill the Little Free Libraries with. If you have any books that you would like to donate, please drop them off in the collection boxes in

*See Class Acts p. 7*

*Class Acts – Continued from p. 6*

the school lobbies. Thank you in advance to all who share their books and promote the love of reading.

**Mary Pavicic** recently donated hair to the **Wigs for Kids Foundation** and raised almost \$3,000 for the organization. She was inspired by one of her former students, **Annie Robinson**, who disclosed that she has alopecia areata and wrote about her experience dealing with hateful bullying due to her hair loss when she was younger. Robinson was the first place \$50,000 winner of the **Maltz Museum's Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out! Essay Contest**.

Each spring pinwheels are "planted" on the **Aurora Police Department** lawn. They are "planted" by the **Children's Advocacy Center of Portage County** in recognition of April as national **Child Abuse Prevention Month** and represent those who break the silence surrounding child abuse and report suspected child abuse/neglect. This year the **Harmon School BETA club** made a commitment to support this campaign.



## AURORA SCHOOLS RECEIVE EXCELLENT RANKING FOR 2011-12

The Aurora City School System has earned the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) Excellent with Distinction ranking for exemplary performance during the 2011-12 school year. The district has achieved the ranking of Excellent for 12 consecutive years.



The ODE stated, "On behalf of the State Board of Education and Ohio Department of Education, we congratulate you on your district's exemplary performance during the 2011-2012 school year. Achieving the ranking of Excellent with Distinction and Excellent for 12 consecutive years on the 2011-2012 Local Report Card is a testament to the hard work and dedication of your teachers, staff, students, parents and community."

## SPORT REPORT

Aurora senior Greenmen linebacker **Zach Smierciak** played in the **Ohio North-South All-Star Classic Game** in Dayton on April 27, 2013 and was one of only 66 players in the State of Ohio to be chosen to participate in the longest-running high school all-star football game in the U.S.



Congratulations to the **Boys Tennis Team** and **Coach Dania Banc** for capturing the highest GPA average of all of the spring sports teams, which include, boys' tennis, softball, baseball, girls' track and boys' track. The boys' tennis team GPA average was a 3.61 based on their 3rd quarter grades of 2012-13. They have achieved this honor for at least the last four years.

The Aurora City Schools would like to thank the **Cleveland Clinic** for their partnership with our athletic teams and programs during the 2012-13 school year.



The NCAA National Letter of Intent Day Signing for football took place on Wednesday, February 6, 2013. Aurora boasted four Greenmen players (left to right): **Patrick Dougherty** (Indiana University), **Jake McVay**, (Kent State University), **Zach Quinn** (University of Toledo) and **Zach Smierciak** (Miami

University). Best of luck!

Congratulations to all of our spring sports teams. Highlights included both the **girls' softball** and **boys' baseball teams** repeating as CVC champions and the **boys' tennis team** making it a repeat CVC champion for the 4th time. The most valuable player honors went to **Jake Czerwinski** (baseball), **Nicole Doyle** (softball) and **Allison Howard** (track for the shot put) who, in her two years on the team, broke the school shot put record in 2012 and set a new shot put record in 2013.

Congratulations to the three Greenmen coaches who were chosen as coaches of the year: **Dania Banc** (tennis), **Jessica McDermitt** (softball), and **Tim Deering** (baseball).

The **Aurora Greenmen Varsity Baseball Team** had an extremely exciting season and made school history by becoming the first Aurora High School



*Baseball team packed and ready to go to their school history making State Final Four game.*

baseball team to compete in the OHSAA State Baseball Division I Title Game. They defeated Mentor 2-1 and moved on to the Division I Semi-Final Game (as one of only four remaining teams out of 194 Division I teams) where they faced Cincinnati Moeller on June 7th. We are very proud of their impressive accomplishments and can't wait for their next season.

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 5  
 Aurora, Ohio 44202

***Dated Material***

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Gerald P. Kohanski, President  
 Pam Mehallis, Vice President  
 Beverly Kuch  
 John Sloe  
 Annie Grohe

**ADMINISTRATION**

Russ Bennett, Superintendent of Schools  
 William Volosin, Treasurer  
 Pat Ciccantelli, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

**ECRWSS**  
**Postal Customer**

**DADS-N-DONUTS  
 SUGARY SMILES  
 ALL AROUND**



“Don’t miss the donut by looking through the hole.” ~ Jerry Smith



**FISH FRY “CAUGHT” ON**



• The Aurora Schools’ annual Spaghetti Dinner was sent up river this year. Pulled up instead was a very successful 1st Annual Fish Fry. Along with the fish dinner, which consisted of fish, french fries and coleslaw, our PTO parents baked all of the desserts. Performances throughout the evening included our 1st graders, Leighton music students, high school orchestra students and the Leighton Leaping Stars. The art department also displayed student artwork.

*Caught working hard at the fish fry.*

• Thank you to our kitchen staff for preparing such a great “catch.” Superintendent Russ Bennett said, “Thanks to everyone who made our 1st Annual Fish Fry a huge success. We were overwhelmed by people, serving almost 500....”



*Caught enjoying the fish fry.*