

# YOUR SCHOOLS

2015

Aurora City School District

## From the Superintendent

By RUSS BENNETT  
Superintendent of Schools



The holidays sure “flew” by quickly and now we are in the midst of the drab winter months. We have experienced several extremely cold days and a few where snowfall was an issue.

When inclement weather hits the Aurora area, I take the responsibility of insuring our student’s safe commute extremely seriously. When weather conditions could have a negative impact on our students traveling to school in the morning, I must make the decision as to whether a two-hour delay to the school day or a complete district-wide closing is needed. That is why, when hazardous weather conditions hit, I routinely arrive in the district at 4:00 a.m. to drive the roads throughout Aurora myself. This allows me to see their exact conditions first hand. I also consult with City of Aurora officials in the service department, superintendents throughout the area, and our transportation department. With the information that I collect, I can then make what I feel is the best decision I can with information that is available to me at the time. Ultimately, I know that my final decision will by no means make everyone happy. I recently saw a weather analyst on CNN who was quoted as saying, “Calling a snow day

*See Superintendent p. 2*

## AURORA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RENEWAL LEVY WILL NOT INCREASE TAXES



The Aurora City School District’s Board of Education has placed a 5.61 mill operating renewal levy on the Portage County May 5, 2015 ballot. Ohio law allows school districts to ask voters to renew a levy when it expires. The levy must be for the same purpose and is renewed at the effective millage rate.

This 5.61 operating levy was first approved by City of Aurora voters in 1990. It was replaced in 1995, 2000, and 2005 and renewed in 2010. Since this is a renewal levy, there is **NO INCREASE IN TAXES** for citizens if the levy is approved.

This levy finances the Aurora City School District’s general operating fund. The income from this fund, by Ohio law, can only be used for daily operating expenses, including curriculum, utility

and transportation costs. This levy annually generates \$3,220,888 of the district’s General Fund operating revenue.

The Aurora City School District’s Treasurer, William Volosin, explained, “The 5.61 mill renewal levy will cause no increase in taxes, as it is a renewal levy. The renewal levy brings \$3.2 million in general fund revenue to the district, or roughly 10% of our operating budget, so it is critical for this levy to be renewed and continued to maintain the current programs and operations of the district.”

Gerald Kohanski, president of the Aurora Board of Education said, “The Board of Education is hopeful that Aurora voters will continue to recognize the excellent results produced by the schools and the outstanding instruction being

*See Renewal Levy p. 7*

**AURORA CITY SCHOOLS**  
THE ONLY  
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STRAIGHT **A** DISTRICT

(All 9 A's!) **IN OHIO**

*Thank You!*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                                       |   |                                |   |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| From the Superintendent.....          | 1 | Holiday Giving Projects .....  | 3 | Class Acts .....                | 6 |
| ACSD Renewal Levy.....                | 1 | Board Notes .....              | 3 | Say It Ain't Snow .....         | 7 |
| ACSD Thank You .....                  | 1 | Who's Who & What's New .....   | 4 | Sport Report.....               | 7 |
| Transportation Dept. Inspections..... | 2 | Aurora Veterans Ceremony ..... | 4 | 100 Days Smarter .....          | 7 |
| ASF Grant Awards.....                 | 2 | Donors Give Generously .....   | 5 | Delicious Donuts Devoured ..... | 8 |
| ILEP Scholars.....                    | 3 | AHS Book Donation.....         | 5 | Snow Much Fun!.....             | 8 |

## TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT CONSISTENTLY “ONE OF BEST” DURING INSPECTIONS

The Aurora Schools Transportation Department, headed by Sal Arquilla, received a letter from Lieutenant Marvin E. Hill from the Ohio State Highway Patrol congratulating them on their history of “being one of the best during annual inspections.”

The letter stated, “We are writing this letter to commend your Transportation Department for a job well done during

Annual School Bus inspections for the 2014-15 school year. Consistently, your transportation department has been observed as being one of the best during annual inspections. On behalf of the Licensing and Commercial Standards section of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Trooper Ken Hall, MVI Al Nemeth, and MVI Bryan Hawkins, we commend you and your staff in all your efforts.



Your transportation team has displayed professionalism and pride in maintaining your fleet of school buses. We strongly believe with your continued efforts we will continue making school bus transportation in the State of Ohio the safest way to transport children our greatest assets.”

### Superintendent - Continued from p. 1

is an art not a science.” While I feel the decision is a mix of both art and science, ultimately I know that my final decision will by no means make everyone happy (although the kids never seem to mind!), but I must remain focused on the safety of our children.

Looking ahead, our Board of Education has placed a 5.61 mill renewal levy on the May 5, 2015 Portage County ballot. Unfortunately, because of the way school districts are funded in Ohio, we must go directly to our city residents and ask for funds, whether it be in the form of a renewal, replacement or new levy. This operating levy is a renewal of a levy that was originally passed in 1990 and has been replaced or renewed every five years thereafter. I want to thank the citizens of Aurora for showing such strong support in the past for our schools and the children within them. I am proud that our community values the education of our children and all of the benefits a strong educational background provides. We could not have accomplished the many outstanding things we have done,

including being named as the only school district in Ohio to receive 9 straight A's on the Ohio Department of Education's 2013-14 district report card, without this community backing.

I want to stress that this renewal levy, if passed by voters, **WILL NOT INCREASE TAXES** for the citizens of Aurora. It is a continuance of our existing general operating fund levy with monies only being allowed, by law, to be used for our day-to-day operating expenses, some of which include utility, curriculum, and transportation costs. This levy provides our district with approximately 10% of our general fund operating revenue. It is therefore very important that we continue to receive these funds in order to maintain the current level of our daily operations. I would like to again thank our city residents for their continued support of our district and our children. We take our mission of ensuring, “that through providing a nurturing environment, with high expectations and effective programs, all students will reach their full potential and graduate prepared to become responsible, productive members of society.”

## AURORA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS

The Aurora Schools Foundation (ASF) has allocated grants for the second semester of the 2014-15 academic school year.

They allocated \$3,380.00 to the Aurora Robotics teams which will support the first Lego Robotics Teams at the elementary and middle school levels, as well as support the expansion of the program at the high school level.

Additionally, ASF allocated \$2,015.13 for Orff Musical Instruments. This grant will be used to update and gradually replace the dilapidated existing inventory for all students at Craddock School.

The Foundation distributed \$2,295.00 to the Independent Learning Experience at Aurora High School. This will be used for materials to support the student's



Foundation p. 8



## 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](mailto:yourschools@aurora-schools.org).

## ILEP SCHOLARS 2015

We would like to welcome our 2015 **International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP)** visiting scholars to Aurora High School. This year we are happy to have **Daniel Silva** from **Brazil** and **Mohammed Ahmed** from **Bangladesh**. Our school district works in conjunction with Kent State University as a part of the ILEP program which is sponsored by the **U. S. Department of State** and is hosted by the **Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education**.

The visiting scholars spend a semester in the district observing our teachers and students and also have the chance to teach in the classrooms. This allows the scholars to learn about the educational process and teaching methods in the U.S. and to interact with students here directly. This opportunity gives them the chance to take back and incorporate what they may have learned in the U.S. into their home country's educational curriculum.

Thank you to AHS Instructor **Rose Brown** who is our Aurora ILEP program coordinator.



*ILEP Scholars: Daniel Silva from Brazil (left) and Mohammed Ahmed from Bangladesh (right)*

## Board Notes

Thank you to **Excel TECC** students **Eva Hoyack** (Marketing Program) and **Christa Barnoski** (Culinary Arts Program), who attended the November 17, 2014 Aurora Board of Education meeting. They spoke in detail about the valuable experiences in their respective Excel TECC programs.

Thank you also to the **Harmon School Robotics Team**, part of the **First Lego League**, and their coach **Cecelia Rodriguez**, who gave their robotics presentation to the board at the January 2015 board meeting.

The Aurora School Board members accepted several large donations at their January 2015 board meeting. An immense **"THANK YOU"** goes out to the donors for their extremely generous gifts to our district.

The **City of Aurora Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin** was a featured guest at the December 2015 Board of Education meeting. Benjamin was invited to the meeting by **President Gerald Kohanski** who said that he invited her to the meeting on a board special recognition night because he wanted, "to recognize the wonderful cooperation that we have between the city and the schools thanks to Mr. Bennett and the mayor." Mayor Benjamin said, "I can tell you that

without exception I think the thing that people are most excited about in Aurora is the schools. And I can't tell you how many times they compliment me on the schools and I have to say, you know I think they're wonderful too, but we owe a real debt of gratitude to the board, to the board leadership, to the superintendent, and to the staff of the schools because truly we have a gem in this city and it only enhances what I think everyone likes about Aurora and continues to help draw people to our great city. So thank you, and in addition, just in the last year you have certainly been a great partner with the city in helping to bring new businesses and consequently new revenue to the city and I really appreciate your hard work and support in that regard.... we are just very fortunate for the schools that we have in Aurora...."

### SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Thank you to the Aurora Board of Education members, **Gerald Kohanski, President; Pam Mehallis, Vice-President; Annie Grohe, Bev Kuch** and **John Sloe**, who give so generously of their time and effort to support our children. They have been instrumental in making our district one of the **Top 10 School Districts in the State of Ohio!** The members received hand written thank you cards from Miller School students.

## HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECTS

### MILLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Miller Preschool's annual Thanksgiving Feast changed up the menu last November. Instead of having parents bring a dish to share, they were asked to bring in donations of canned and boxed food items. The donations were then given to the Volunteers of America (VOA) Aurora food bank. A total of 209 pounds of food was donated to the VOA from the four sections of preschool students and their families.

Our PTO also once again sponsored our Giving Tree Project where they partner with Family and Community Services of Portage County to provide donated items for holiday distribution.



*Miller School Pre-School Thanksgiving Feast*



*Miller School Student Donations*

### CRADDOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A new giving project took place at Craddock Elementary School this past holiday season. The Cookies for Kids' Cancer group in Aurora asked to have students make cards for children who had to spend the holidays in the hospital. For every card they made, the Hasbro Toy Company donated a toy to the Toys for Tots Foundation up to a million dollars worth of donations. Thank you to Ms. Terese Hickey who worked with some of her art students and the art club to design a variety of cards for the project.



### LEIGHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Approximately 75 families benefitted from the Leighton School Flurry of Gifts project that was held



## Who's Who & What's New

Thank you to all of the Miller School students & families that donated to the **JUMP ROPE FOR HEART PROGRAM**. They raised \$2,165 for the **AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**.



Congratulations to **JEANETTE HOYT** from Twinsburg who was the **AURORA ULTIMATE BOOSTERS CAR RAFFLE** drawing winner for the 2014-15 Chevy Impala sponsored by **TIM LALLY CHEVROLET/THE CHEVY NETWORK** that was held on January 10, 2015. AHS football player **JUSTIN MERRIFIELD** sold the winning ticket. The Aurora City Schools' raised over \$18,000 for student groups from the sale proceeds. A big **THANK YOU** to **MIKE & KIM LALLY** for their very generous support of our school district and our students!

The district **QUALITY PROFILE** and **QUALITY VIDEO** can now be found as a permanent link on our district website Homepage on the left-hand side under **Quick Links**.



Both of the **AURORA HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAMS**, intelligence and TBD, performed very well at the **OHIO STATE FIRST TECH CHALLENGE COMPETITION**. Team intelligence won the prestigious **JUDGES AWARD** and team TBD team went on to compete at the Pennsylvania State Competition.



Congratulations to the **7th GRADERS** who won 1st place and the **8th GRADERS** who won 3rd place at the **POWER OF THE PEN** competition at Garfield

Middle School on January 17th.

Thank you to organizers **AMY WILLIAMS** and **JENESS DUFFY** and the **KEY CLUB STUDENTS** who participated



in the **RAKE AND RUN EVENT** last October. This is a great community service event that helps area senior citizens with their leaf raking. Students arrived at area homes on a Saturday morning in the fall, quickly raked the yard-full of leaves and left the leaves in a pile near the street for pickup. The senior citizens really appreciated the extra help.



Winners of the **AMERICAN LEGION'S AMERICANISM AND GOVERNMENT TEST** include: **MICHAEL BOAN, IAN DOEMLING, SAM IAMMARINO, MEGAN MACINTYRE, TYLER THIEDING,** and **SARAH ZHANG**. The district winners were **DOEMLING, MACINTYRE,** and **ZHANG**. All three qualified for State competition. Congratulations to **SARAH ZHANG** who was named the **STATE WINNER**. Zhang is the first State winner from District 14 (Summit/Portage) in five years and will be traveling to Washington D.C. as our Ohio representative. Congratulations to each of them!

Approximately 450 teams competed in the **OHIO FIRST LEGO LEAGUE** with 50 teams qualifying to compete at the State Championships. Congratulations to the Leighton Elementary School and Harmon Middle School teams **THE CRAZY RHINOS, ROBOBACON,** and **SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT**, who all advanced through the competition and won several awards.



## CITY OF AURORA VETERANS CEREMONY INCLUDES HARMON STUDENTS


The Aurora VFW honored veterans during a Veterans Day ceremony on Tuesday, November 11, 2014. The ceremony took place at Aurora's Memorial Park. Some of the participants included Aurora VFW members, area veterans, Aurora city officials, and four Harmon Middle School students. The students, Leah Angelo, Edan Konturas, Wendy Kristell, and Hannah Kulawiak, were asked to read the same script they read at the annual Harmon School's 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip wreath laying ceremony. Thank you to our student speakers who did such an impressive job representing our school district.



*Harmon School students (l to r) Wendy Kristell, Edan Konturas and Leah Angelo spoke during City of Aurora's VFW Veterans Day ceremony.*



*Harmon School 8th grade student Hannah Kulawiak was also a featured presenter during the ceremony.*


 Donations

## DONORS GIVE GENEROUSLY TO OUR DISTRICT

On January 26, 2015, the Aurora School Board gratefully approved the acceptance of several charitable gifts given to the school district. Superintendent Russ Bennett stated, "Aurora is extremely thankful and fortunate for the people who provide financial gifts, equipment and supplies, as well as their time. Acts such as these are what make Aurora such a special and supportive community."

The district was very fortunate to receive an anonymous donation of \$30,000. The anonymous donor has provided this gift for many years and has preferred to remain anonymous. This money is used to support many programs and learning opportunities for the students throughout the district. This year some of the money has been earmarked for the purchase of Chromebooks for students in grades 6-12.

Aurora resident Bob Hujer, gave a generous donation of two hearing aids and accessories with a total value of \$3,500. These will be given to children in our district who suffer from hearing difficulties and will be an immense help.

Boogie Boards were donated by Aurora resident Keith Bellamy/Kent Displays.

The 480 Boogie Boards are valued at \$14,400. Boogie Boards are electronic tablets that allow students to write responses to questions teachers may ask in class. By writing on tablets, teachers can check for the understanding level of each student in the class. It's a newer technology versus the old chalk or white boards teachers have utilized in the past. These Boogie Boards are being used throughout the district in many classrooms.

In addition to these gifts, each year the Aurora City School District receives donations from affiliated booster groups and foundations, along with parent support groups like our PTO. For instance, the Aurora Schools Foundation (ASF) provides charitable grants to teachers throughout the district every year. This year they have budgeted approximately \$15,000 to be dispersed to teachers who have applied for the ASF grants to support their innovative programs.

Additionally, the district is very appreciative of the PTO, who has donated computers and supplies for each building, along with their gift of time and support for holiday parties and numerous other fundraisers and activities.

### Giving Projects – Continued from p. 3

- in conjunction with the Salvation Army.
- The annual Canned Food Drive held by Leighton School also supported the PTO's annual Food Drive.

### HARMON MIDDLE SCHOOL



Coats for Kids

- During the rough winter seasons here in Northeast Ohio, it is so important that children have the proper cold weather apparel to keep them safe and warm.
- The annual Harmon Middle School Coats for Kids drive helps do just that.
- The project was a big success with approximately 900 coats being donated this year for local children in need.

### AURORA HIGH SCHOOL

- The AHS Senior Class won the Aurora for Others Coin War this year earning them a donut party celebration.
- The Coin Wars were one of several Aurora for Others events held at AHS in conjunction with National Honor Society and Students Against Drunk Driving. The four-class competition raised a total of \$7,623.29 with portions of the money being split between local families and charities in need. Thank



*Giving Projects p. 6*

## AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENEROUSLY DONATES BOOKS

The Aurora Historical Society (AHS) made a generous donation to Leighton School 4th grade students, 4th grade classrooms and the library/media center. They donated 400 copies of the City of Aurora history book entitled, Aurora: From the Founding to the Flood, written by Aurora residents Carol G. Bowman and (co-author) Richard Fetzer. The donation coincided with the 4th grade social studies local history focused curriculum.

Leighton 4th Grade Instructor DeAnna Pochedly's class was the first class to receive their books and hosted the society's book presentation. AHS members Kathlyn Brown, Richard Fetzer, Neil Klimko, Director John Kudley and Mike Thai were on hand to present the books to the students. Fetzer was also kind enough to sign each child's book.

AHS Secretary Kathlyn Brown said, "There can be no better way to celebrate the historical significance of Aurora than to reach out and share it with its youngest citizens."

Pochedly said, "The Fourth Grade students and staff are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Historical Society in donating the copies of Aurora: From the Founding to the Flood. Learning the importance of written history is a big theme for our students. Aurora's history will forever be a part of **their** history too, no matter how long they live here. Many students were

simply astounded that these beautiful hard copy books were theirs to keep; one thing we heard repeatedly was, "Seriously? It's mine? I get to keep this? Awesome!!!" We teachers echo that sentiment, and it proves once again what a supportive, truly special community we are blessed to work in."



*Co-author Richard Fetzer signed each child's book.*



*AHS members stand with Leighton School 4th grade teachers after the book presentation.*

## CLASS ACTS

AHS instructor **Rose Brown** and her senior students participated in the national **WordWright Challenge** last October. The results revealed that out of more than 60,000 participating students across the country, AHS seniors **Maddy Allen, Ally Burns, Laura Giesler, Sarah Kreiger, and Megan McIntyre** finished **8th in the nation** and **tops in Ohio**, as a group. Congratulations!

Harmon Middle School CT Technology Instructor **Shawn Reilly** made two more benches and several stools for the **Miller School preschoolers** to use. Thank you and great job Shawn!



*Preschoolers enjoy their new benches constructed by Harmon School Instructor Shawn Reilly.*

Aurora High School music students in grades 9-12 participated in the **Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event** on January 25, 2015 at Firestone High School. High school students from district VI (Summit, Portage and Medina counties) participated in this prestigious event. The following Aurora High School music students participated in the OMEA Adjudicated event:

- Ben Brandes** – Class B Bassoon solo – Rating I – “Superior”
- Paige Hartenburg** – Class B Violin solo – Rating II – “Excellent”
- Amanda Hsieh** – Class A Piano solo – Rating I – “Superior”
- Amanda Hsieh** – Class A Violin solo – Rating I – “Superior”
- Amanda Hsieh / Paige Hartenburg** – Class A Violin Duet – Rating II – “Excellent”
- Kameron Kainec** – Class C Cello solo – Rating I – “Superior”
- Emma Kocar** – Class B Cello solo – Rating I – “Superior”
- Katie Kronz** – Class A Vocal solo – Rating II – “Excellent”
- Peter Loferski** – Class A Snare Drum solo – Rating I – “Superior”
- Peter Loferski** – Class A Marimba solo – Rating I – “Superior”

- Paige Ochocki** – Class B Trombone solo – Rating I – “Superior”
- Sarah Zhang** – Class A Violin solo – Rating I – “Superior”

Second grade teachers took their classes to the **Akron Art Museum** for a “narrative artworks” program field trip that tied into their literature and writing curriculum. One of the artists, **Paul Henry Ramirez**, happened to be present setting up a show during a visit by **Sue Leko’s class** and the students got to meet him.



*Students in Sue Leko’s class got to meet Akron Art Museum exhibiting artist Paul Henry Ramirez*

**School Counseling Week** ~ February 2-6, 2015 – Thank you to all of our counselors for all that they do!

AHS senior **Jim Lee** performed with the **Ohio All State Honors Orchestra** at the **OMEA State Conference** on February 7, 2015 at the new Cleveland Convention Center. Jim earned this honor when he auditioned and made it into the Northeast Ohio Regional Orchestra in September. He ranked so high in that organization (2nd place) that he automatically qualified for the All State Orchestra. This is Jim’s second year appearing in the All State Orchestra. Sophomore **Sarah Zhang** also made it into the Northeast Ohio Regional Orchestra and is an alternate for the Ohio All State Honors Orchestra. Congratulations to both!

### *Giving Projects – Continued from p. 5*

you to Jen Simmerman for organizing this annual event and to Vicki Wolf who counted all of the coins!

Each year the Student vs. Staff Basketball Game and Dodgeball Tournament, are also included as a part of the Aurora for Others project. The money raised by both events went to local charities and families in need during the holiday season. This year the charities included,



## AHS SUMMER ACADEMY 2015

Forms for the AHS Summer Academy will be available on April 6, 2015. They will be available on the AHS website, in the AHS main office and in the HMS main office. The courses are offered as follows:

**Personal Finance** (½ credit) **Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 26, 2015 (10th, 11th, & 12th grade only)**

**Physical Education** (¼ credit) **Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 26, 2015**

**Health** (½ credit) **Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 24, 2015 (10th, 11th, & 12th grade only)**

**Art 1** (½ credit) **Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 24, 2015**

Congratulations to **Jen Sferra** who received the **Shape America Midwest District K-12 Young Professional Award** for 2015, which she earned as a result of her professional contributions. Sferra received her award at **The Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Convention**, which ran from December 3-5, 2014.



AHS junior **Josh Friedler** came in **1st place** overall out of 93 students in the **FFA State Landscape Competition** on January 9, 2015. **Friedler** and AHS junior **Dakota Gray** were also members of the **Excel TECC** team of five members that earned a 5th place finish and qualified them for the State finals. Great job!



Fresh Air Camp, Habitat for Humanity, the United Mitochondrial Disorder Foundation, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Student Council advisors Shelly Dirda and Kathy Wiemken led a canned food drive and playoff t-shirt sale that collected approximately 800 pounds of food and \$2,300 for the Aurora VOA Food Bank.

## SAY IT AIN'T SNOW!

### Snow Day Hour Policy Explained

After last year's brutal winter, many Northeast Ohio schools exceeded their allotted number of state calamity days, prompting the Ohio Department of Education to change its system.

The state now requires schools to fulfill a minimum number of hours per school year, rather than requiring schools to complete a minimum number of days.

Aurora students in grades 1-12 have currently fulfilled the minimum number of hours they are required to be in school and many have even exceeded this number by quite a bit. However, the A.M. Kindergarten session has only fulfilled 451.5 hours this year and the state requires a minimum of 455 hours, so this group of students will have to make-up this time at the end of this school year. Similarly, the A.M. Pre-School session has only met 353.46 hours and the state requires a minimum of 360 hours. The All-Day and P.M. Kindergarten sessions, as well as the P.M. Pre-school session, have currently met the required number of hours they must be in school.

Overall, there is much more flexibility with changing to an hourly system and it has been beneficial to our district as we've battled through these fierce winter weather conditions.

#### *Renewal Levy – Continued from p. 1*

received by our students. This renewal will allow us to continue our high level of achievement and progress without increasing taxes."

Aurora Schools' Superintendent, Russ Bennett added, "We hope our community continues to provide the confidence needed to maintain great schools." As a result of the financial and personal support, our district has continued to earn the highest marks possible from the Ohio Department of Education. Together, we've built the education in Aurora to an elite level."

## SPORT REPORT

### NCAA Signings for Baseball and Softball

On Monday, December 8, 2014, four students signed NCAA Letters of Intent for baseball and softball.



Pictured front row, left to right are: **Andy Weber, Nick Ely, Nicole Doyle, and Matt Carpenter.** Pictured back row, left to right are: Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, **Pat Ciccantelli**; Superintendent, **Russ Bennett**; Aurora Board of Education President, **Gerald Kohanski**; Softball Coach, **Jenna Micale**, Baseball Coach **Mike Brancazio**; and AHS Asst. Principal **Brian Brookhart.**

#### SOME AHS HIGHLIGHTS:

**Matt Carpenter**- The Ohio State University- All CVC Sophomore and Junior Years; National Honor Society Member; Freshman Mentor Program

**Nicole Doyle**- Southern Illinois University- CVC MVP 2014 and 2013; CVC 1st Team 2014, 2013, 2012; Aurora Service Learning

**Nick Ely**- Notre Dame College- Silver Slugger Award Winner 2014; National Honor Society Member; Freshman Mentor Program

**Andy Weber**- University of Virginia- 1st Team CVC Sophomore and Junior Years; National Honor Society Member; Freshman Mentor Program

## NCAA Signings for Soccer and Football

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, five students signed NCAA National Letters Of Intent for soccer and football.



Pictured front row, left to right are: **Brandon Zamary, Joey Dinardo, Nick Perez, Michael Stratton, Joey Melchiori.** Pictured back row, left to right are: AHS Football Coach, **Bob Mihalik**; AHS Soccer Coach, **Chris Gentile**; and Superintendent, **Russ Bennett.**

#### SOME AHS HIGHLIGHTS:

**Joey Dinardo**- Urbana University- All-Ohio Special Mention 2014; NEO Inland All-District 1st Team 2014; 1st Team CVC 2014 & 2013 Football

**Joey Melchiori**- University of Charleston- All-Ohio Special Mention 2014; NEO Inland All-District 1st Team 2014; All CVC Academic Letter; Member of National Honor Society

**Nick Perez**- Northern Kentucky University- DI All-State 2nd Team 2014 & 2013; Cleveland Plain Dealer 2014 & 2013 Soccer All-Stars HM; All CVC Academic Team

**Michael Stratton**- University of Charleston- All-Ohio Special Mention 2014; NEO Inland All-District 1st Team 2014 & 2013; 1st Team CVC 2014 & 2013

**Brandon Zamary**- Wofford College Terriers- 3rd Team All-Ohio 2014 & All-Ohio Division III Special Mention 2013; All-NEO 1st Team Inland District Division III 2014 & 2013; All CVC Academic Letter



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**

**DELICIOUS  
 donuts  
 DEVoured**

Miller/Craddock Elementary School students and their special guests enjoyed a morning of delicious breakfast items and started their day off right!



*Foundation – Continued from p. 2*

“plunges” and a field trip to the Ohio School Board Association Capitol Conference.

There was a \$250.00 allocation to the Aurora Parent Academy which supports Craddock School parent initiatives.

The Foundation gave \$2,177.86 to Aurora High School to support a research based proposal by the new AP Environmental Science class. This money will be used to install several non-touch hygenic filtered water stations around the high school.

ASF has also provided \$1,002.84 for the “Move to Learn” project, which will allow Craddock School to purchase materials to create a “Move to Learn” movement and sensory activity room.



**SNOW  
 MUCH  
 FUN!**



**First Time Ever Sledding!**

