



1nformed



About Medina City Schools

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District Summit Draws Over 300 Participants to Collaborate and Share Ideas

THE SUMMIT



The Summit "Taking Education Beyond the Classroom" was a resounding success with over 300 individuals meeting to share ideas and hopes for the future of the Medina City Schools. A wide variety of district stakeholders participated in the event including students, staff, community and business leaders, parents, and interested citizens.

The day-and-a-half high energy meeting was facilitated by Molly McGuigan and Maura O'Donnell-McCarthy, both trained in the Appreciative Inquiry process of which the Summit was based. They led attendees through a series

of activities requiring individuals to reflect, discuss what individuals value about the school district, share hopes for the future, discuss partnerships and identify resources, and begin to develop a vision. The Summit ended with participants developing opportunity areas and initiatives for each of the areas.

The work generated at the Summit will be refined and further defined and will ultimately become the district's Strategic Plan. Participants were given the opportunity to indicate their interest to continue involvement in refining specific opportunity areas. Over 100 individu-

Contents

- "Souper" Bowl Cook-Off.....2
- Summit Opportunity Areas.....3
- Run.4.Fun Contest.....4
- Invention Convention.....5
- Right to Read Week.....6
- Science Olympiad.....7
- Distinguished Service Award.....8

als will be meeting over the next several months to work on the opportunity areas and initiatives.

Read more on pg. 3

Stimulus Funds Will No Longer Be Available After This Fiscal Year

During the past two years the federal government has supported the budget deficit in the state of Ohio through one time stimulus funds. The state of Ohio used some of

these funds to minimize the negative impact of budget reductions to school districts. This stimulus money for the state ends after this fiscal year.

The effects of this most recent recession resulted in lower than anticipated tax revenue at both the state and local level. The lower than expected tax collection

has expanded the state's budget deficit. By law, just as the school district must balance its budget so must the state. The state's budget for the fiscal year 2012

and 2013 is estimated to have an \$8 billion deficit.

Read more on pg. 8

A Message from Superintendent Stepp About Calamity Days

Spring is almost here and thank goodness! I don't know about you, but I've about had my fill of snow days! Speaking of snow days, many parents have asked about the legislation that is working its way through the House and Senate that, if passed, will reinstate the number of allowable calamity days back to five.

As you know, we currently are permitted to have three calamity days.

Under current law any calamity days over three must be made up. Like many area school districts, the Medina City School District has used six calamity days thus far this year. If the current law does not change we will

need to make up the three calamity days. Those make up days will be on Wednesday, June 8, Saturday, May 7, and Saturday, April 9. However, should the law change, permitting school district to have five calamity days, we would only need to make up one calamity day and that would be on Wednesday, June 8.



Root's Chain Links Club Collecting Eyeglasses

A.I. Root's Chain Links Club is holding an eyeglass collection from March 14 - April 15. Individuals can drop-off eyeglasses, prescription

and regular sunglasses to Root Middle School at 333 West Sturbridge Drive. The donated glasses will be donated to local eye care businesses for

those in need. The frames of the donated eyeglasses are recycled and given to those who cannot afford to purchase glasses.

Schools and Parent Organizations Create "Souper" Soups

On February 11, schools and parent organizations joined together for the Friends of Medina City Schools, "Souper" Bowl Cook-off. The event was the site for 17 teams who shared some of their best soups from hot and spicy to most original. Not only were the soups extraordi-



nary, so were the themes which were carried out from the table decorations to costumes.

Celebrity judges for the event were Mayor Hanwell, Police Chief Berarducci, Chamber Executive Director, Debra Lynn-Schmitz. Attendees could vote for Most Original and

People's Choice and judges voted on Judge's Choice - tasting all seventeen team soup entries. The winners of People's Choice was Garfield's "Mrs. Potato Heads," Judge's Choice was "Blake's Best Chefs," and Most Original was "Wang's Hot and Spicy Warrior Woman" spon-

sored by the Department of Instruction and Student Services Department.

Local musician John Husbands entertained the crowd with favorite songs of attendees. A special thanks to Buehler's, Eatn-Park and Hawkins for providing bread and cookies for the event.

Thanks to our "Souper" Bowl teams:

"Wang's Hot & Spicy Warrior Women"
- Department of Instruction/Office of Student Services
"Team Overboard"
- Board of Education
"Wise Guys" - Root Middle School
"Heritage Has Hearty Soup"

"Blake's Best Chefs"
"Race to the Crock" - PACE
"Cheeseburger in Paradise"
- Fenn Elementary
"Souper" Stars - Canavan PTO
"Mrs. Potato Heads"
- Garfield Elementary

"Team Foundation"
- Medina City Schools Foundation
"Spicy Bean Counters"
- Treasurer's Office
"Souper Spuds" - Waite Elementary
"Souper Teachers"
- Northrop Elementary
"Cheesy Champions" - CFit

"Something to Honk About"
- Claggett PTO
"Mamacita Canavan's"
- Media Services
"Souper"intendent's Team
- Superintendent's Office

District Summit Draws Over 300 Participants to Collaborate and Share Ideas (Continued from page 1)

The opportunity areas that were developed at the Summit are:

1. The Medina City Schools will individualize learning to develop strengths and passions of each student while understanding different learning styles.
2. The Medina City Schools will make the most of existing facilities and resources.
3. The Medina City Schools will have a strong integration of expanded learning opportunities outside of the classroom.
4. Medina City Schools students will be active and involved local and global citizens.
5. The Medina City Schools will develop a stable and consistent funding model that supports the district's vision and is supported by all stakeholders.
6. The Medina City Schools will work with the community to integrate technology to educate beyond the bounds of time and classroom walls.
7. The Medina City Schools will focus on collaborative learning opportunities to leverage the full talents and passions of the whole community.
8. Communication between the Medina City Schools and the community will flow effortlessly in a reciprocal fashion.
9. The Medina City Schools will be creative in developing mutually beneficial partnerships between families/parents and schools.
10. The Medina City Schools will be creative in developing mutually beneficial partnerships between our businesses and our schools.
11. The Medina City Schools will be creative in developing mutually beneficial partnerships between our local community and our schools.



The Nurturey
2 col. x 6"

**Medina City Schools Foundation
 Announces Winner of Run.4.Fun
 T-Shirt Design Contest**

The Medina City Schools Foundation held its annual t-shirt design contest for the Run.4.Fun. This year's design contest was open to all elementary school students. Garfield fifth grader Jazmin Mehta is the winner. She will receive a \$50 gift card to Target, a plaque and a commemorative t-shirt.

Amy Busby, chairwoman of the Run.4.Fun stated

"The artwork submitted by the students from all of the elementary schools was outstanding. It was very difficult to make a choice. We are very appreciative of the students' hard work and submissions – they are all very talented."

This year's Run.4.Fun is Friday, May 6. The event features a children's half-mile run/walk at 7:00 PM (ages 8 & under), an

open 1 –mile run/walk at 7:15 PM, and an open 5K run/walk at 7:30 PM. Advance registration is \$20 individual or \$70 for a family. On-site registration (must register by April 25 to receive a free t-shirt) is \$25 per person. Individuals can register online at www.rsracingsystems.com or obtain an entry form at any of the Medina City School buildings.

**Heritage 4th and 5th
 Graders Perform "The
 Emperor's New Clothes"**

Heritage Elementary School fourth and fifth graders recently performed the humorous Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale, "The Emperor's New Clothes." The audience was entertained by this musical about the Emperor of a distant land who loves clothes which leads him to being duped by two con artists as they conspire to sell the Emperor a magical garment. The students were led by directors Lynn Campbell, vocal music teacher and Lori Fawcett, paraprofessional, and assisted by retired teacher June Trenty who served as the drama advisor and Sandi Harris, community volunteer serving as the choreographer. Parents assisted with this production in the areas of scenery and costumes. Students were involved in many facets of this production from the cast, chorus, scenery crew, to the stage crew.

Centerpointe Chiropractic Ad

3 col. x 5"

**Students Participate In
 Invention Convention**

Students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade have the opportunity to participate in the Medina Invention Convention Club. The district's Invention Convention Club has its roots at Ella Canavan Elementary where it started three years ago. The Club is an offshoot of the Cleveland Invention Convention, a program designed for students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade to encourage and guide students in creating a new invention that will solve a problem in their everyday lives.

Canavan students recently enjoyed an assembly presented by Captain Gadget "Q" Think-a-ma-jig and Dr. Claire Out-a-Hair. This dynamic duo inspired students to create. Captain Gadget and Dr. Claire

talked to the students about inventing, the requirements for participation, and then engaged the students in hands-on activities. Student volunteers were selected from the audience to participate in an invention quiz show and to compete in "invent on the fly" with assistance from teachers.

Students from Medina's seven elementary schools are invited to participate in the Medina Invention Convention Club. The local Invention Convention will be held at Canavan Elementary School in April showcasing the students' many inventions. The top student inventors will advance from the local convention to participate in the regional convention at the Great Lakes Science Museum on May 7.

Small Wonders

2 col. x 2.5"

District Gardens Continue To Grow

An offshoot of the district's Wellness Committee is the Garden Committee. Its members have been busy all winter planning for spring and the upcoming growing season. In late January, a group of district staff members, parent volunteers, students, representatives from Medina Hospital and the Medina County Health Department,

and local business owners met to share ideas and resources about the school garden program.

Interest in the program continues to grow. In addition to the existing gardens at the high school and Root Middle School, plans are underway to plant gardens at four of our elementary schools this summer. The Gar-

den Committee is scheduling a "work day" for early spring to get the gardens in shape for planting. The work will include shoveling dirt, rototilling, and constructing new gardens. If you would like to volunteer at the work day or become involved with the garden program, contact Kim Grigsby at grigsby@zoo-minternet.net.

**Medina Band Parents' Association
 hosting 2011 Spaghetti Dinner &
 All That Jazz**

Join the Band Parents' Association for the 2011 Spaghetti Dinner & All That Jazz, Saturday, April 9 from 5-9 p.m. in the lobby of the high school's Performing Arts Center. Tickets for adults are \$9 and for Jazz Band performers. Tickets for chil-

dren under 10-years are \$4. This event will feature the Medina High School Stardusters, the Medina High School Jazz Band, and the Jazz Bands from A.I. Root and Claggett Middle Schools. There will also be silent and oral auctions.

Tickets are available from all band members, at the door or by emailing: medinamusicalbees@zoo-minternet.net. Visa and Master Card will be accepted at the door. All proceeds benefit the Medina City Schools' Band Programs.

**SPRING BREAK:
 MARCH 28 - APRIL 1**

Blake Students Celebrate Reading "Around the World"

Students across the district have been celebrating Right to Read Week. Blake students recently celebrated with the theme, "Read Around the World." Students participated in theme days wearing special t-shirts, hats, sharing books and dressing-up as their favorite book characters. Students

and their families also came together for a very special 'Literacy Night' visiting Australia, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North and South America, and Africa. When traveling around the world they wrote letters to members of the armed forces, made pennants, played Literacy BINGO, made a

craft, and participated in a book exchange. The PTO sponsored a bake sale and the proceeds of \$124 were donated to Project: LEARN of Medina County.



New Show Choir Has Taken Its Talent On The 'Road'

A new Show Choir has been formed for students, Applause Entertainment Organization. The organization was formed by vocal music instructors Emily Semenik and Carey Knox. Serving as directors of Applause, they are guiding the talents of 43 performers from A.I. Root and Claggett Middle Schools.

The students auditioned for Applause in November, began rehearsals in

December and have been rehearsing twice a week to prepare for the show which they performed as an exhibition group at the Midwest Showcase Show Choir Competition in February.

Applause has been performing at assemblies at a number of the elementary schools in the district and is seeking additional opportunities to perform.



Right to Read Week Kicks Off

Garfield students kicked off their Right to Read Week with an author visit and school wide presentation from Kristen Paulus, who authored, "There's a Lion On the Dance Floor." They also celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by participating in "Read Across America Day," deemed by the National Education Association.

With a generous donation from Kohl's Corporation, each classroom received four hardback Dr. Seuss books. Friends, family, community members, district administrators and Board of Education

members served as mystery readers throughout the week.

Students participated in a writing celebration in which the entire school gathered in the gymnasium and students from around the building read stories that they had written in class. Other fun events during the week included story retells displayed in the hallways, morning announcement contests where students had to guess mystery book titles from listening to very short passages, as well as "dress like your favorite character day."

First grade teacher Kerry Thomas stated



"The students and staff had a fun-filled reading week!"

Encore Entertainment Company has Busy Competition Schedule

Medina High School's premier Show Choir, the Encore Entertainment Company, is in the midst of a busy competition schedule. Performing in January at the Findlay Fest, Encore received Overall first runner-up, Class A Champion, and Outstanding Female Soloist. Junior Kristin Leuchtag won the Outstanding Female Soloist award within a show. In February, En-

core performed at the Twinsburg Northcoast Show Choir Invitational and received Overall third place, Class A Runner-up, and Judges Choice. On March 5, Encore competed at the Fairfield Crystal Classic and received Overall third runner-up and Male Solo Competition with senior Zach Pytel singing "What do I Need With Love?" from Thoroughly Modern



Millie.

Director Tyler Skidmore stated, "The Fairfield Crystal Classic competition is one of Ohio's most difficult and largest Show Choir competitions. It was an honor for our students to make the finals and share the stage with so many great choirs from around the country, let alone finishing in fourth place."

Claggett Middle School Places 2nd at Science Olympiad Tournament

For the second consecutive year, Claggett Middle School captured second place at the Nordson Region IV Science Olympiad tournament. Science Olympiad is North America's most prestigious science and technology competition for elementary, middle and high school teams. Students compete in 23 events, challenging their science knowledge in biology, geology, chemistry, physics, earth and environmental sciences, technology and engineering applications.

In 2010, 277 teams representing more than 4,000 Ohio students and teachers participated. Ohio has been a part of the National Science Olympiad program for

over 26 years, and state participation ranks in the top six of 48 states involved with the program.

Brenda Rice, M.D. is the head coach for Claggett's team. Assisting Rice are Sandy Brown and John Schubert. The team consists of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Team members include: sixth grade - Cassidy Polack, Nicky Schmeller, Matt Stump, Derek Walker; seventh grade - Jonathan Bonezzi, Eric Brown, Zack Carey, Sean Kerns, Kyle Kofsky, Sunny Levine, Ben Loeper; eighth grade - Preston Bures, Sam Hardy, T.J. Milam, Kendra Willhoite.

Winning gold first place medals were Nicky Schmeller and Kendra Willhoite in "Dynamic

Planet" and "Awesome Aquifers," Ben Loeper and Matt Stump in "Fos-



silis" and "Can't Judge a Powder," Sam Hardy and Sunny Levine in "Anatomy," Kyle Kofsky and Kendra Willhoite in "Storm the Castle," Eric Brown and Preston Bures in "Towers," and Jonathan Bonezzi and Zack Carey in "Junkyard."

Silver medalists included

Eric Brown and Sean Kerns in "Road Scholar," Sean Kerns and Ben Lo-

eper in "Solar System," and Jonathan Bonezzi and Nicky Schmeller in "Ornithology."

Bronze medal winners included Ben Loeper and Matt Stump in "Optics," and Zach Carey, Sam Hardy and Sunny Levine in "Experimental Design."

Additional medal or ribbon winners are Jonathan Bonezzi and Preston Bures in "Compute This" (fourth place), Sean Kerns and Kyle Kofsky in "Crime Busters" (fourth place), T.J. Milam and Derek Walker in "Ecology" (fifth place) and "Battery Buggy" (sixth place), Eric Brown and Kyle Kofsky in "Meteorology" (sixth place), Preston Bures and Cassidy Polack in "Microbe Mission" (seventh place), and Zack Carey and Cassidy Polack in "Disease Detectives" (seventh place).

The Claggett team's second place finish qualifies them for Ohio's state tournament to be held April 30, at the Ohio State University.

District Seeking Nominations for Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Exemplary service, going above-and-beyond, exceptional role model - these are the qualities being sought for the district's Distinguished Service Award. This prestigious award is given to four individuals during the school year by the superintendent.

Nomination forms can be obtained in any school office or on the district web site on the Staff pull down menu. Recipients of the award receive \$500 to be used in their school or department. Community members along with staff can nominate outstand-

ing staff members for this award.

Please send completed nomination forms to the Medina City Schools Communications Office, 140 West Washington Street, Attention Jeanne Hurt or email Hurt at hurtj@mcsok.org.

Stimulus Funds Will No Longer Be Available After This Fiscal Year

(Continued from page 1)

These revenue reductions to the Medina City Schools are in addition to the fiscal year 2012 budget deficit of \$3.9 million. As a result of this situ-

ation, these potential funding reductions will be a part of the district's planning for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

Medina High School Students Contribute To The Empty Bowl Project

Ninety students in Michelle LoBuglio's ceramic classes at Medina High School have been creating ceramic bowls to donate to the Empty Bowl Project. Empty Bowls is an international project to fight hunger.

The basic idea for Empty Bowls is quite simple. Participants create ceramic bowls, then serve a simple meal of soup and bread. Guests choose a bowl to use and to keep as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the

world. In exchange for the meal and the bowl, guests give a donation.

The sponsors choose an organization that addresses hunger to receive the money collected from donations. The local Empty Bowl meal is Saturday, March 19 at Granger United Methodist Church (1235 Granger Road) the organizing sponsor. The event is from 5-7 p.m. For a donation of \$8 guests will receive a meal and a bowl; for a donation of \$5 guests will receive a

meal. The recipients of the donations will be the Sharing Center Food Bank, Operation Blessing, and The School Lunch Program at Old Mutawe School, Zimbabwe.

From its humble beginnings 20 years ago, as a meal for the staff of a high school, Empty Bowls has spread across the United States and beyond and has raised tens of millions of dollars.

The following illustrates the *anticipated reductions the school district could see from the state, ranging from a **10% REDUCTION TO A 25% REDUCTION.***

10% = \$1 million less from the state

15% = \$1.5 million less from the state

20% = \$2.0 million less from the state

25% = \$2.5 million less from the state

Medina High School's VOFT Program Prepares for Dance Marathon

Medina High School's Volunteer Opportunities for Teens Program (VOFT) is preparing for its bi-annual Dance Marathon. This event is the sole fundraiser for VOFT. Students wishing to participate must col-

lect a minimum of \$50 in donations.

In the past, the money raised supports many charitable organizations including Medina High School blood drives and the Jessica Schaffer Me-

morial Scholarship. A decision will be made following the Dance Marathon as to additional organizations to which the funds will be directed.

"The Dance Marathon offers students a chance to

help the community by the donations they collect as well having a great time with their peers," said staff advisor Linda Florian.

This year's Dance Marathon is April 21. Students will begin registering at

6:30 a.m. with the music provided by DJ Sparky B beginning at 7 a.m. The Marathon lasts until 2:20 p.m. This event is chaperoned by staff and parents.