



Informed



About Medina City Schools

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Additional Cuts Looming Following Levy Failure

Following the Medina City Schools recent levy failure, the district is preparing for additional cuts to the budget. According to final but unofficial numbers from the Medina County Board of Elections, the district received 7,341 votes for the levy and 9,727 votes against. The district saw nearly 2,000 more yes votes than its last levy request in November 2009.

The 5.9 mill emergency levy would have generated approximately \$7 million annually for the five years of the levy period. Prior to this issue being on the ballot the district cut \$9.5 million from its budget and nearly 150 staff members. With the looming budget deficit from the levy failure, the district will need to make additional cuts totaling approximately \$3.9

million from its budget.

At this time no decisions have been made regarding reductions to current programs and offerings. The Board of Education and administration will be discussing next steps in the coming weeks and months. A district priority is to preserve as many educational opportunities as possible for students. A levy passage would have meant a reduction in pay-to-participate fees and reinstatement of busing services to prior service levels.

"Many rumors are circulating regarding the next set of cuts that will be made in the district due to the levy failure," said Superintendent Randy Stepp. "We want our parents, staff and students to know that we have not made

any decisions at this time. As we continue to talk about necessary steps and when decisions are made, we will communicate this information to our community. This is not an easy process, therefore we do not want to rush to any conclusions or make any hasty decisions."

The district would like to thank all those who worked to help inform residents regarding the levy and for those who supported our schools on Election Day.

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-Superintendent Randy Stepp

First Graders Get First-Hand Look at Farming

More on page 2.



The Community and Its Schools Working Together: Cans For Kids

This year's slogan for the 5th Annual Cans for Kids food drive was "A Partnership Between a Community and Its Schools." This truly describes this year's effort as students showed up for the event in grand fashion.

Students from A.I. Root, Claggett, Eliza Northrop and Ralph E. Waite were each encouraged to bring in a canned food item during the week of October 25. After all items were collected, counted and weighed, over 4,100 cans and other non-perishable food items were donated weighing just over an ASTOUNDING 3 tons of food. All students who participated in the event won one of several prizes including

t-shirts, folders, hats, Amazone passes and two students were lucky enough to win tickets to the upcoming Browns/Ravens and Browns/Steelers games.

This annual event is sponsored by the North Coast Browns Backers and other local businesses including iCandi Graphics, Gepetto's Pizza & Ribs, Stanley Steemer, Plum Creek Assisted Living, Amazone and Merk's Tickets.

All donated items stay local as the Medina Community Services Center, the Medina United Methodist Church and Holy Martyr's Catholic Church were the beneficiaries of this year's generous giving.



Teachers Sara Dreibelbis, Dave Wyemura, Wade Chapman, and Dan Sherman and North Coast Browns Backers President Paul Fabri of Medina (all coordinators of the event) were extremely appreciative of the overwhelming generosity on behalf of students and staff. "This

is simply amazing what the students were able to give," Sherman said. "It's nice to see the students of Medina City Schools continue to give back to their community and this is only one example of their constant efforts to make Medina a great place to live!"



Congratulations to the Medina High School Cross Country Team, State Runner Up, Division 1!

First Graders Get First-Hand Look at Farming

First graders at Waite Elementary School recently visited Coy Smith's farm. Mr. Smith explained how he uses a combine to remove corn from the stalk as well as how it removes the kernels off the cob and then stores the corn until it is time to be unloaded. He told the students that his corn is used to feed farm animals and is shipped to Coca-Cola to be used in the production of Coke products.

"This walking field trip fits into the science standards as students need to understand that food arrives to the grocery store from many sources, which we discussed during our visit," said first grade teacher Mary Jo Zacharias. "The students were so excited to see the combine in action and watch the kernels being unloaded. It was a great science lesson and fun activity that students really enjoyed!"



Senior Citizens Invited to Free District Events and Performances

Seniors 65 and older residing in the Medina City School District can receive passes to attend athletic and student performances for free. Passes are valid for life for the individual named on the pass.

Athletic passes are good for admittance to regular season athletic events. The district participates in the Northeast Ohio Conference, passes provide admittance to athletic events within the conference. Passes are not valid for tournaments.

To receive an athletic pass, senior citizens should go to the Athletic Department located at Medina High

School, 777 East Union Street between the hours of 7:30-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Student performance passes are good for band and orchestra concerts, choir concerts, plays, and talent shows except for the spring musical, Showtime, and Southwest Show Choir Festival. Seniors are invited to attend the senior citizen exclusive dress rehearsal for these two performances. To receive the Medina City Schools "Battling Bees" pass for these performances, senior citizens should go to the Medina City Schools Board Office at 140 West Washington Street to the

general reception area.

Proof of residency and age will be required to receive these passes. We hope you will come and enjoy our student events and performances.



Spring Garden Waldorf Ad

2 col. x 5"

Upcoming Events

November 18, 19, 20 - Medina High School Fall Play, 'Of Mice and Men', 7:00 p.m., Middle Stage Auditorium, \$6 admission; \$4 for students and senior citizens

November 22, Southwest Show Choir Festival, 7:00 p.m., Main Stage Auditorium, \$6 admission; \$4 for students and senior citizens

November 24-26 - Thanksgiving Break

December 7 - Medina High School Holiday Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage Auditorium, \$6 admission; \$4 for students and senior citizens

December 9 - Medina High School Holiday Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage Auditorium, \$6 admission; \$4 for students and senior citizens

December 14 - Medina High School Holiday Choirs Concert, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage Auditorium

*All events except Southwest Show Choir Festival free for senior citizens with pass

District Hosting Fifth Annual Coats for Kids Express Drive

The Medina City Schools is sponsoring its fifth annual "Coats for Kids Express" a gently worn and new coat drive for those in need. Parents, community, staff, and students are encouraged to drop-off clean gently worn and new coats at the locations listed below. Rob Travis transportation manager for Medina City Schools said, "We have had an overwhelming response every year we have held the drive. We have collected upward of 400 coats including hats, mittens, scarves and boots. The community has been very generous."

Look for the yellow school bus "The Coats for Kids Express" at each of the locations below.

Remaining DROP -OFF Locations

H. G. Blake Elementary Thursday, November 18, 10:00-11:00 AM
4704 Lexington Ridge Drive

Ralph E. Waite Elementary Thursday, November 18, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM
4765 Cobblestone Park Drive

Garfield Elementary Friday, November 19, 10:00-11:00 AM
234 South Broadway Street

Claggett Middle School Friday, November 19, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM
420 East Union Street

Centerpointe Chiropractic Ad

3 col. x 5"

Garfield Elementary Receives \$1,000 from Frontier Communications

Frontier Communications an internet, phone and cable company believes strongly in giving back to communities they serve. Recently Garfield Elementary School received \$1,000 from Frontier. This donation was part of the company's "Great Communications and Great Donate Tour." Seven of Frontier's executives hit the road in an RV with the expectation of meeting as many of their customers, employees, and community leaders as possible in a five-day period. In a statement from Frontier it stated "As a local, community-based communications company, Frontier always has been and will always be in the business of bringing people together and facilitating Great Conversations. It is what we've always done and will continue to do. As active participants in the communities we serve, we pride ourselves on helping people stay connected."

The Great Frontier DONATE supports organizations in communities served by Frontier. The first DONATE program, launched in 2009, and focused on stocking local food pantries. This year's DONATE program is providing monetary donations to public and private schools, religious institutions and other non-profit groups. Karen McGinty, principal at Garfield Elementary stated that a committee was being formed to determine how to best use the money - in the end it will be used to enrich the educational experience for students.

High School Language Arts Teacher Holding Book Drive

Medina High School language arts teacher Sue Bryenton is holding a community book drive to benefit students Pre-K through the eighth grade living in the Appalachian area in Athens County. Bryenton has been in contact with the Superintendent of the Trimble School District and learned of the need for pleasure books for the students. These students do not have access to books at home for enjoyment or for their parents to read to them.

Anyone wishing to donate used or new books can drop them off at any of the school buildings. The drive will run through November 22. Bryenton will be renting or securing a donated U-Haul to transport the books. For questions or to assist contact Bryenton at 330-725-5283.

Junior Statesman of America sponsored Annual Poverty Awareness Project

Medina High School's Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) sponsored the second annual Poverty Awareness Project at the high school's Ken Duke's Football stadium on October 7. The project's purpose is to raise the awareness of homelessness and the poverty situations in which people exist.

More than 180 students participated in Boxland 2010 and raised over \$4,500 for the Salvation Army of Medina County and the Battered Women's Shelter. Each student donated \$25 to participate in the project.

"The weather was a lot warmer than last year, and we had great fun," said senior Morgan Etheridge, co-president of JSA. The students carried their cardboard boxes to the football stadium early Thursday evening and set up their home for the night.

"Some of the boxes collapsed as the night wore on but our Box was designed with plastic on top to avoid the problem of moisture and we were like peas in a pod" said Allie Olsen, JSA co-president.

"We are very fortunate

students," said Brandon Romano. "We come from loving homes and are provided every opportunity in life. It is important not to take that for granted and to help others by participating in Boxland...it was a pleasure!"

At 5:45 a.m. the students were awakened by Jake Ciulla and his trumpet playing reveille. The field was cleaned up and students then attended classes. "We were a little tired," according to Mike Pinalli, "but the hot shower and sleep after school felt oh so good!"

Medina Musical Bees Named Grand Champions

The Medina Musical Bees just completed an extremely successful season of performances at Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) local marching competitions.

The band competed in Class AA October 16 at the Copley Marching Band Invitational with several area high school marching bands. The Musical Bees performed an outstanding rendition of this year's competition show titled "Spartacus" by Gary Gilroy.

The Musical Bees were awarded 1st place in Class AA, Best Percussion Class AA and Best Color Guard in Class AA. Overall awards received included: Best of Show Music, Best of Show General Effect and the high overall score at the competition. Medina qualified for the OMEA State Marching Band finals earning Superior Ratings in every category.

The Brunswick Sound Spectacular was the location for the Bees next performance. The Blue Devil Marching Band competition was held October 23. The Musical Bees, again performing in Class AA, were named Grand Champions of the show. Awards received included: 1st Place and Best Auxiliary in Class AA as well as Best of Show Auxiliary, the "Kathryn Curtis Award" for Best Overall Music and Best Overall General Effect.

"Our directors, staff and band members have been preparing very diligently during the past two weeks reviewing judge's comments from recent performances," said Medina High School director Gary Ciulla. "We, as Musical Bees staff members, have been awed at the amount of dedication and hard work displayed by our marching band members this year, allowing us to have outstanding performances at the Copley and Brunswick shows."

Help Shape the Future of the Medina City Schools

The Medina City School District is embarking on a strategic planning process to move the school district forward and to help direct areas of priority. The district is using a process called Appreciative Inquiry, which builds on strengths and involves representation from the entire school district community. Anyone who has a 'stake' in the future of the school district is invited to participate.

There are a number of phases involved with this process, outlined below:

- A Core team was formed with representation from the school district and community.
- Appreciative Inquiry interviews were conducted by approximately 100 trained employees and community members who interviewed close to 500 individuals in the school district
- The "Summit" will be held in 2011 on Thursday, February 17, 5-9 p.m. and Friday, February 18, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (location TBD). The "Summit" is a large-scale meeting that focuses on discovering and developing an organization's positive core and designing and visioning for the future.

The "Summit's" success is determined by the diverse mix of community members comprised of both internal and external stakeholders and their input into the process of visioning for the future.

- Following the "Summit" the Core Team will draft a strategic plan for the school district based on the input received during the Appreciative Inquiry Interviews and the "Summit."

For more information or to sign-up to participate in the "Summit" contact Jeanne Hurt at 330-636-3112.

NOVEMBER
American Education Week

14-20



**ALL
CITY & COUNTY SCHOOLS
RATED EXCELLENT!**



**MEDINA COUNTY IS THE ONLY
COUNTY IN OHIO TO ACHIEVE THIS
SPECIAL RECOGNITION TWICE
CONGRATULATIONS!**



Sluggin' With Santa!



The Medina High School Baseball Program will be holding a Pre K/Kindergarten Hitting Workshop on December 11th for boys and girls ages 2 ½ to 7 years old at Root Middle School's Gymnasium. The first Workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. with each new workshop beginning every ten minutes; each workshop will last for approximately thirty minutes. You may arrive anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to attend the workshop.

The cost of the Workshop is \$20.00 per child which includes a T-shirt, bat and ball, and instruction. A discounted rate of \$50.00 for three children registered and an additional \$10.00 per child beyond three children registered.

An emphasis on having fun, gaining confidence,

and learning basic form and fundamentals - while working with the High School Coaching Staff and Players and the big guy from the North Pole, Santa Claus, will be the highlights of the workshop.

Photo opportunities of Santa tossing batting practice to each boy and girl will be available, so don't forget your camera. Parent supervision and participation is requested.

For further information, please contact Ben Stobbs by phone - 330-242-4603 or e-mail stobbsb@mcsoh.org



BEWARE! The Frankenstein Project Videos Now on YouTube™

When the 2010-2011 school year began, Mr. Russo's language arts class at Root Middle School had no idea what they were in for. What was dwelling in the darkness was the most challenging educational project of their lives. The project was introduced through a secret trailer in which all of the guidelines were introduced. Students were to log on to YouTube™ at a specific time with their parents to see what was in store. Waiting for them, was a graveyard and a teacher. The next day, students began the "Frankenstein Project."

The project began with an introduction to advanced elements of literature through "War of the Worlds." After that, students dove into the original copy of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" which is considered a feat within itself for a seventh grader. Weeks passed and the challenges continued. Six classes

were then asked to take elements learned in "War of the Worlds" and "Frankenstein" and create six original movies based on the novels. The results have been amazing! Students have developed complex plots, characters, full-circle items, moods, and settings. Not only have the students been involved, but student's parents have allowed some of the classes to enter their actual homes to film.

Some parents traveled one hour away to film at a very special location. Russo said, "In all of my years of teaching, I have never had a project in which every single one of my students have been completely engaged. I promised my students that I would give everything I had into this project and asked them for the same in return. The results have been everything and more."

Sluggin' With Santa Registration Form

Registration forms need to be completed and returned by December 3rd to -

Sluggin' With Santa Coordinator
Ella Canavan Elementary
825 Lawrence Street
Medina, OH 44256



Check payable - Medina High School Athletic Department

Participant's Name(s) - 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Parent/Guardian - _____

Phone Number - _____

E-mail Address - _____

T-Shirt size - please indicate quantity

youth XS _____ youth S _____

youth M _____ youth L _____ Adult S _____

Canavan Fourth Graders Enjoy Visit from the Raptor Center

Canavan fourth graders recently completed the book *The Capture*, which tells the story of its main character, an owl. "We chose this book because it is the first in a series of 15 books that are high interest and high level," said fourth grade teacher Beth Nickley. "The characters are complex and the issues they face are difficult."

The teachers' goal is to build interest in the series and give students background knowledge so that they can tackle the remaining books in the series on their own.

After reading the book the students chose to learn more about owls so that they could better understand the fictional owl characters in *The Capture*. The students

researched resources for owls and found that the Raptor Center assists injured birds. Students then requested a visit from the Raptor Center to learn about its mission and more about owls. Prior to the visit, the students decided they wanted to assist the Raptor Center so they created bookmarks with depictions to sell to their fellow class-

mates for twenty-five cents each. The students raised \$175, which they presented during the visit from the Raptor Center.

The students also learned that Wolf Creek Nature Center was holding an "Owl Walk" so a number of students and their families participated in a night at Wolf Creek to learn about

owls and their habitat.

Students are now reading the book *Hoot*, which focuses on burrowing owls and the need to protect their environment. "We hope our children become vested in learning more about endangered animals and choose to do further research about ways they can help protect them," Nickley said.

School Districts in the County Form Collaboration Initiative

School board members across the county came together during an October 20 meeting to unveil the Collaboration Initiative and discuss its goals. The Initiative's goals are to work together to save money for all area districts, increase efficiencies, provide more opportunities for students and find ways to increase collaborative activities. The group has met twice and established a number of collaborative projects to be further researched and potentially coordinated for this school year, including:

- Develop a common school calendar (no later than the 2010-2013 school year)
- Review practices used and develop a curriculum outline with material needs to allow for the joint purchase of materials for all-day kindergarten programs
 - The Ohio Department of Education has mandated that all districts in Ohio implement all-day kindergarten, however, allowing districts to apply for a waiver for the current school year and next school year
- Review district textbook replacement schedules and develop a common schedule to allow for joint purchasing and sharing of textbooks
- Coordinate the purchasing of technology and related items by developing common specifications for all equipment
- Coordinate the rental of office equipment so that bids can be made jointly



Garfield students participated in a Walk-a-Thon sponsored by the PTO raising \$3,500 to be used for field trips.

The superintendents and treasurers from districts in the county will work together to assure that the above outlined goals are worked on throughout the year. Board president, Mark Dolan said, "We need to work together collaboratively to increase efficiencies and to continue to implement cost savings measures in all areas of district operations. This Initiative is another means of doing so."