

## WEEK IN REVIEW - NOV. 15 - 19, 2010

**Superintendent's State of the Schools Luncheon** - Our inaugural Superintendent's State of the Schools Luncheon took place Friday at 11:30 a.m. This luncheon gave us the opportunity to host local business and community leaders, HT alumni, State Board Members, community partners, parents, and students in a State of the Schools Address. 75 guests attended the luncheon.

The State of the Schools Address focused on the achievements that our district has experienced over the past seven years. Central to the message was that our district has advanced from five indicators passed and a rating of 'Academic Watch' to 23 indicators passed and a rating of 'Excellent.' The improvement represents a 460% gain. Other items presented include:

- \* Graduation rate has increased from 84.7% to 91%
- \* Graduation rate is better than state average and similar districts
- \* District's Value Added Measure is rated at "+" or above.
- \* 2010 - 2011 Goals
- \* Post-Secondary Initiative
- \* The last operational levy to bring new money to the district was passed in 1993
- \* No other central Ohio district can claim that they operated 17 years without new monies
- \* Our advancements have been accomplished without additional operational taxes
- \* Revenue Sources Per Pupil
- \* FY2010 Expenditures
- \* District recently refinanced school bonds and saved taxpayers nearly \$469,000
- \* Career and Community Service Project - 2010 Graduates completed more than 22,000 hours of volunteer service
- \* Rangers for the Cure have raised nearly \$70,000 for Komen for the Cure
- \* Hamilton Boosters have donated more than \$1.6 million for facilities; \$250,000 in scholarships; and \$30,000 in equipment and uniforms
- \* Congratulations to Nate Hillerich and the football program
- \* Introduction of Adam Beggrow as new Head Wrestling Coach

Obviously, this event could not have occurred without the work of my assistant, Chrys Thompson. Her many hours of planning and organizing made the event a great success. Also, thank you to:

Vince Payne for coordinating the State of the Schools PowerPoint Presentation and the District Annual Report.

Heather Chute and the high school choir for their selections.

Lindsey Davis and her varsity cheerleaders for assisting with serving and cleanup.

All of those individuals who are too numerous to mention.

And, most importantly, the members of our Administrative Cabinet. Without their leadership on the front lines, the advancements that this district has made would not have been possible.

## OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

**Math Teacher Leader** – Our district works with the Teaching and Learning Collaborative -- a central Ohio education association that provides professional development to support quality math and science instruction. High School mathematics chair, Carole Morbitzer, is participating in this year's teacher leader professional development workshops. The quarterly workshops focus on engaging instructional strategies designed to help students apply math concepts. Carole will be sharing ideas from the workshops with other teachers throughout the district. She will also be sharing some of our good work on standards-based curriculum and assessment with the workshop leaders and participants.

**Math Research** – Hamilton is working with the Ohio State University to participate in another study. The Center for Cognitive Science's Cognitive Development Lab is conducting research on how young children develop number sense. Learning more about the acquisition of number sense is important to us because number sense is as critical to math learning as phonemic awareness is to reading. The purpose of the research is to identify the best strategies for improving number sense in preschoolers and second graders. Mrs. Strahm and Mrs. Carley will be coordinating the research with the Ohio State University.

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Hamilton Local Featured In Columbus Dispatch** - Our district was highlighted in The Columbus Dispatch on Monday, Nov. 15 and Monday, Nov. 22. In the issue on Monday, Nov. 15, our district was featured as one of the few Central Ohio school districts that is actively compliant with new state laws that require us to provide BMI (Body-Mass Index) screenings to students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, and 9.

[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/11/15/schools-weigh-sensitive-subject.html](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/11/15/schools-weigh-sensitive-subject.html)

We were also featured in a more in-depth article on Monday, Nov 22. This article focused on our district's rapid rise in academic success and our ability to work within our means while operating on tax dollars that were approved in 1993.

[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/11/22/schools-improve-within-means.html](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/11/22/schools-improve-within-means.html)

## HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

**Integrated Science Tutoring** - This year, attendance is greater than in the past, which has shown student commitment to achievement. The tutoring sessions held every Wednesday after school include a diverse combination of students needing extra help with understanding concepts, those students who want the extra positive reinforcement and those students who want to retake a quiz, to achieve a higher grade. The tutoring time allows for a relaxed environment where students do not feel so "on the spot" about asking questions. Instead of the more structured classroom environment, students are free to come for part or all of the tutoring and work out questions and concepts together or by themselves. To keep a group of students that typically ranges 50+ participants under control and productive, the Science Department relies on the help of Mrs. Patino and volunteer student tutors from the National Honors Society.

Student quotes below:

Lorenzo Bridges stated *"I come to tutoring so I can do better on my exams. Its also more fun..if you are studying by yourself its too hard. But when you are there with friends it is easier."*

Dalton Holmes stated *"I like it because it helps me to know what to study and all my friends are there."*

Micky Crum stated *"You go over notes and it just seems to make more sense after school."*

Paige Poth stated *"I can't focus when I am at home. Tutoring gives me time to study."*

**Congratulations to the Top Digital Dollar Winners** - Hamilton Township High School's Digital Dollar Program is off to a great start with the top sixteen students earning a luncheon provided by Chipotle. This quarter, our top digital dollar earners are as follows: Frank Adams, Taylor Baker, Holly Bernthold, Dhanijsha Branham, Ammie Calhoun, Lindsey Combs, Angela Davidson, Caitlin Douglas, Ashton Evans, Mykal Hodge, Kyle Maupin, Alexis Moore, Gabrielle Power, Jonathan Stewart, Paula Stonerock, and Kyle Zikio. Congratulations to each of them for their successful accomplishments this 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks. Each quarter students can earn digital dollars for several reasons. The first is for attendance. Any student with perfect attendance for the nine weeks can earn ten digital dollars and any student with a 95% or better attendance rate earn 5 digital dollars. Secondly, students can earn digital dollars for their academic performance. Any student who makes the honor roll will earn 5 digital dollars. For those students who have earned a 4.0 grade point average or higher will earn 10 digital dollars. Lastly, students can earn digital dollars from their classroom teachers for a number of reasons ranging from good behavior, to excellence in the classroom, to helping someone in need of assistance. Once students have earned digital dollars they can redeem them at our school spirit shop where they can purchase snacks, school supplies, tickets to special events at school, T-shirts, and gift cards. Hamilton Township would like to thank for the following businesses for their support of the Digital Dollar Program. Dairy Queen, Arby's, Subway, and Graeters Ice Cream have all donated gift cards for student purchase. Skyline Chili and the Hamilton Local Boosters have donated money to help cover the cost of snacks and supplies. Once again a special thanks to Leah Bazell at Chipotle (Stringtown Rd.) for the luncheon provided for our students. The Digital Dollar program would also like to thank Mrs. Walker's Marketing Students for their financial assistance in this detailed program.

**Obetz Christmas Kick Off Parade** - The Hamilton Township Marching Band and Color Guard will be performing in the annual Obetz Christmas Kick Off parade on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Expect to see students dressed for the fun occasion wearing Santa and elf hats, which are provided by the Hamilton Band Parent Organization. The parade will begin at approximately 6pm. We hope to see you there supporting our band program and the Village of Obetz!

**Spirit Snapshot Contest** - The students and staff at HTHS joined together once more for the fight against breast cancer. A picture from the 2010 Volley for the Cure was entered into the 104.3 School Spirit Snapshot Contest. After two weeks of voting, the Rangers were victorious, winning a total of \$5000. The \$5000 will be used to help cover students' registration fees for the 2011 Komen Columbus Race for the Cure. Thanks to all the students, staff, and community members who voted for our spirited snapshot!

*"Thank you so much for your participation in the Ohio Orthopedic Center of Excellence School Spirit Contest on Rewind! The winning school was Hamilton Township with 105,587 votes out of 200,507. Bishop Watterson was well represented with 46,005 votes and Hilliard Bradley finished third with 25,021 votes. We thank all of you for your support and spirit! Your participation has ensured that we will do contests similar to this in the very near future. Congratulations again to Hamilton Township, as we have learned that a portion of the \$5,000 will go to help students pay the entry fee for the Komen Columbus Race for the Cure! Stayed tuned for future opportunities to raise money for your school!"*

Thanks,  
Scott Prokop

## **OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**National Technology Plan Released:** U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan released on November 9, 2010 the U.S. Department of Education's National Technology Plan (NETP). The plan is entitled "Transforming American Education: Learning Powered by Technology", and was developed with stakeholder input by the U.S. DOE's Office of Educational Technology.

The plan provides a comprehensive vision for helping classroom teachers transform student learning through technology in five areas, and is focused on supporting more individualized and real-world learning activities to ensure that students keep pace with the 21st century. The plan will support the President's goal to increase college completion by 2020 and close the achievement gap, so that all students graduate from high school ready to succeed in college and careers.

### *The plan sets out to do the following:*

Learning: Change the learning process so it's more engaging and tailored to students' needs and interests.

Assessment: Measure student progress on the full range of college and career ready standards and use real time data for continuous improvement.

Teaching: Connect teachers to the tools, resources, experts and peers they need to be highly effective and supported.

Infrastructure: Provide broadband connectivity for all students, everywhere-in schools, throughout communities and in students' homes.

Productivity: Use technology to help schools become more productive and accelerate student achievement while managing costs.

The NETP also includes plans to fund the creation of open-source resources for schools and online professional learning communities for teachers.

Learn more about the plan: <http://www.ed.gov/technology/netp-2010>

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Inclusion Works!** - Mrs. Smith recently received an email from Mr. Borkow from the high school science department. We have a ninth grade student who has received his instruction for the past four years in a self-contained special education classroom. As he entered high school, the IEP team decided to try him in a less restrictive setting. As teams, we often worry about pushing students out of our protective setting into the world of general education. Success depends on so many factors, most important of which is the buy in of the general education teacher. Please note the email below from Mr. Borkow.

"This is a HUGE step for KR. KR is one of my students from Ebbeskotte/Pierce's room. Two days ago we had our "Day of Demos" where I perform 15 demonstrations and students decide whether the demonstrations indicate a chemical or physical change. One of the demonstrations involves having a student come up to the front of the class and mix chemicals together to produce a glowing light (artificial fire-fly). When I asked for a volunteer, KR raised his hand and came to the front of the room. The demonstration involved having KR be the center of attention. This is by far the most involvement I have ever seen from KR and is a big step since KR does not like to be singled out and typically freezes when faced with such social challenges." - *Philip S. Borkow, 9th Grade Integrated Science, HS Dept. Chair.*

## OFFICE OF ATHLETICS

**Senior signs NCAA National Letter of Intent** - Senior baseball player Kameron Wright signed a Division I National Letter of Intent to accept a baseball scholarship to The University of Evansville. Congratulations to Kameron and his family for this well deserved scholarship. Keep an eye out for a complete story of the signing forthcoming on the Hamilton Local Web page.

**Hamilton to support the Autism Puzzle Shootout** - Due to the great student support of Volley for the Cure, Jarod Smalley of WCMH TV 4 has invited Hamilton Township High School to become involved in the Inaugural Autism Puzzle Shootout and Blueout to raise autism awareness during this basketball season. The awareness will take place during a varsity boys basketball yet to be selected, stay tuned for more information to come.

## HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Middle Schoolers Honored** - On Friday, November 4, 58 Hamilton Middle School students and their families and guests were treated to breakfast in the Middle School cafeteria because of their great success in the classroom. In order to be on the Principal's Honor Roll and be invited to the breakfast, students had to have earned at least a 3.8 grade point average for the first quarter of the year. In upcoming quarters, students will be recognized and rewarded in different ways, including a pizza party and a school-wide assembly.

**Fundraiser a Huge Success** - The Coins for Caring program for soldiers stationed overseas has went beyond the wildest hopes of the National Junior Honor Society at Hamilton Middle School. The grand total collected was \$896.98 from the two grades. Mrs. Wills' 8th period class won the pizza party by filling the most gallon jugs with coins. This money will be used to send care packages to military personnel stationed overseas away from their family and friends over the

holidays. The National Junior Honor Society, directed by Mrs. Jett, took this project on after Mrs. Herendeen-Ackerman asked for their assistance. The Language Arts teachers also had their students write letters that will be included in the care packages. This program was coordinated with Hamilton Elementary School and Leave a Mark Church. The joint effort of both buildings yielded a grand total of \$2,151.94!! This year 25 care boxes and thirteen envelopes will be sent out. Thanks to everyone for their help.

**Math Intervention Assists Struggling Math Students** - Math Intervention was set up four year ago for students who were not successful on their Ohio Achievement Test. The students that have Math Intervention also have a regular math class. In Math Intervention the goal is to stay two or three weeks behind the regular math teacher to help fill the gaps if they have missed anything. In the 7th grade classes they are currently finishing up a unit on Graphing: Graphing Linear Equations and Linear Inequalities. The next topic will be finding area of different shapes. Students will create a dream bedroom with their knowledge of area. In the 8th grade classes they have been working on a different type of graphing. They have learned about Bar Graphs, Line Graphs, Circle or Pie Graphs, Scatter plots, and others. Also every Thursday and Friday are Science Days. Work is done out of a Science book and then the topics topics are discussed. Next in 8th grade the students will be studying probability. The students will play a game of rock, paper, and scissors and learn how that game involves probability.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Not Your Ordinary Parent/Teacher Conference** - Kids who came with their parents were able to enjoy several activities in the cafeteria Tuesday and Thursday. They were able to test their luck in the money machine, play games, color pictures and even watch movies. We had over 350 kids visit our cafeteria and over 750 parents visit classrooms for conferences. A big thank you goes to our specials teachers and Mrs. Dixon who helped coordinate this.

**Watch Out American Idol** - During our in-house field trip to Australia with Seona McDowell, Hamilton Elementary was able to help her tell stories and sing. A few students were even able to be the stars of the show. Seona brought a positive message, along with several special props, to tell students about the world and to illustrate how we are all different and should work towards finding peace in all that we do.

**Breaking Records with Coins for Caring** - This year Hamilton Elementary students broke a record, raising over \$1,200 dollars for the Coins for Caring community service project. Kindergarten students collected \$378, 1<sup>st</sup> grade students collected \$360, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students collected \$202 and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade collected \$357. Congratulations, goes to the following classrooms for raising the most money in their respective grade levels: Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Thomas, Miss Vogelpohl and Miss Gaus. A thank-you goes to Mrs. Fisher's class for helping collect all the coins. We combined our totals with the Middle School and found that this project brought in over \$2,100. The money raised from this community service project is being used to help purchase items for Holiday care packages for soldiers from our community serving our country overseas and the cost of shipping these packages. We will be working with the Military Outreach Group from Leave A Mark Church to fill these packages and ship them on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**The Ranger Store Is In Full Swing** - Thanks to funding from our PTO, your faithful Box Top collections, generous donations from Leave A Mark Church and our dedicated Ranger Store volunteers our Ranger Store is a hopping place every other Friday. The second movie of the year was played November 19<sup>th</sup>. Movies are shown once a month on the big screen in our cafeteria at the end of the day and tickets can be purchased at the Ranger Store for 50 Ranger Bucks.

**It Is Not As Easy As It Looks** - During a staff meeting this past week a few staff members were able to try test their luck in the money machine. As each individual attempted to grab the floating papers, their co-workers cheered them on, but they found out it really wasn't as easy as it appeared. Mr. Allgood and Mr. Fourman tied for first place, but Miss Breidenbach gave them a run for their money.

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Buildings and Grounds** - Igel completed work at the high school baseball field. Grade was prepared to support asphalt and a retaining wall in the spring.

**Groveport Madison Visits District** - Groveport Madison's Assistant Superintendent Bruce Hoover and various GM staff members visited our high school media center on Friday. Many school districts, contractors, architects and construction management teams have visited our new schools over the past few years. We are always very proud to show these groups our incredible buildings and facilities.

**Assistant Principal's Meeting** - Mr. Morrison guided discussions regarding the Alternative Academy, field trips, transportation needs, book study and discipline during the monthly Assistant Principal's meeting. These meetings follow each monthly board meeting.

**Family Intervention Programs** - Hamilton Schools hosted final November High School Saturday Family Workshop (HSSFW) at our Education Center. This workshop provides guidance and direction for students in grades 9 - 12 who have or may begin to experiment with drugs/alcohol or other risky behaviors. Additional workshops will begin again in February.

**Civil Rights Data Collection** - Mr. Morrison has started the process to submit district based data to the Office of Civil Rights. The purpose of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) 2009-10 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) is to obtain data about how well the nation's public school districts and elementary and secondary schools are doing in fulfilling their obligation to provide equal educational opportunity. The CRDC collects a variety of information, including student enrollment and educational programs and services disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, limited English proficiency, and disability. The CRDC is a longstanding and important aspect of the Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) overall strategy for administering and enforcing the civil rights statutes for which it is responsible. This information is also used by other ED offices as well as policymakers and researchers outside of ED.

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

### **Intermediate Teachers Train On How To Improve Communication With Technology**

- During the two hour delay on Wednesday, November 17, the teachers at the Intermediate building were educated on how to utilize technology in the classroom and expand on ways to communicate with families. Ms. Bright and Mr. Beggrow trained all the teachers on how to use iMovie and SMART Recorder to enhance their lessons. After the in-service, the staff now has the knowledge to use these tools to make video clips and podcast that will help students and their families be better informed about what is happening in the classroom.

**Intermediate Staff Participates In Health Screenings** - On Wednesday, majority of the Intermediate building's staff members participated in a voluntary health screening. They took about 20 minutes of their day to meet with the medical team sent by our insurance carrier. Staff members received valuable information about their blood pressure, cholesterol levels, BMI, and sugar levels.

**Dedication In The Sixth Grade** - The Sixth Grade Band has some very enthusiastic learners who have been coming to the band room to practice during their recess time. These students voluntarily give up their recess because they enjoy playing their instruments and seek to improve their skills. Nikki Hanlin, Kylie Meade, Savannah Kienzle, Madison Burke, Matti French, Daliah Edwards, Jessica Gilmore, Kendra Dalton, Sarah Anderson, Joelle Smith, Hayley Vang, Ronnie Beach, Jocelyn Pineda, Sydney Cramblit, and Austin Stone should be commended for their dedication and work ethic. These students are going above and beyond what is expected of them and they will become excellent performers as a result. Mrs. Laing is proud of them and says to keep up the hard work!

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Annual Report Now Available** - Our Annual Report for 2009-2010 is now available on-line. We are happy to report we are in continuous improvement and we are making progress towards our goals.

**Attendance Data Showing a Positive Trend** - Having students on-site for work sessions is showing a positive trend in our overall attendance. Students are coming in weekly to receive instruction and intervention in their courses. Mr. Benton and Mr. O'Reilly are working to help students complete coursework more quickly and to help students set and achieve goals. Good job everyone!

**Credit Recovery Update** - Our credit recovery program is off to a good start this school year. 26.50 credits have been issued to students attending our High School since August 1st. Thanks to Mr. Ryan Fitzgerald for helping coordinate this program and aiding students with the process.



## **PRESCHOOL**

**Conferences** - Parents had the opportunity to meet with the preschool teachers to discuss their child's "glows" and "grows." Teachers explained standards, progress reports, and learning strategies parents to use at home. We had over 100 parents attend the conferences. Teachers also held several phone conferences for parents who were unable to come to the school.

**Psychology and Cognitive Study** - Dr. Susan Witten and Mrs. Strahm met with Dr. John Opfer and his grad assistant Chris Young to discuss the possibility of doing a study on the math concepts in young students. The goal of this project is to better understand how children reason about mathematics and science. Dr. Vladimir Sloustksy is the lead researcher on this study.

**Happy Thanksgiving** - The preschool staff wishes all board members, administrators, and staff a very HAPPY Thanksgiving. Enjoy your families!