

Northwest News

Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

2009-10 INDIANS BOYS BASKETBALL

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Tuesday	12/8/09	TUSLAW	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	12/11/09	*MINERVA	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	12/18/09	*LOUISVILLE	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	12/22/09	*MARLINGTON	Home	7:30 PM
Tuesday	12/29/09	*ALLIANCE	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	1/5/10	CARROLLTON	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	1/8/10	*CANTON SOUTH	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	1/15/10	WEST BRANCH	Away	7:30 PM
Saturday	1/16/10	COPLEY	Hoover	12:30 PM
Tuesday	1/19/10	*MINERVA	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	1/22/10	*LOUISVILLE	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	1/29/10	*MARLINGTON	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	2/2/10	*ALLIANCE	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	2/5/10	CARROLLTON	Home	7:30 PM
Tuesday	2/9/10	FAIRLESS	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	2/12/10	*CANTON SOUTH	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	2/16/10	JACKSON	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	2/19/10	WEST BRANCH	Home	7:30 PM
Tuesday	2/23/10	AKRON KENMORE	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	2/26/10	CANTON CC	Home	7:30 PM

HEAD COACH: Mike Lower
ASSISTANT COACH: Seth Peterson

ASSISTANT COACH: Andy Cocklin

2009-10 INDIANS GIRLS BASKETBALL

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Saturday	11/28/09	ST THOMAS AQUINAS	Away	7:30 PM
Wednesday	12/2/09	*CANTON SOUTH	Away	7:30 PM
Saturday	12/5/09	*CARROLLTON	Away	2:30 PM
Saturday	12/12/09	*LOUISVILLE	Home	2:30 PM
Thursday	12/17/09	19TH MAYORS CUP	Massillon	6:00PM
Saturday	12/19/09	19th MAYORS CUP	Massillon	TBA
Saturday	12/26/09	*MINERVA	Away	7:30 PM
Wednesday	12/30/09	*ALLIANCE	Home	7:30 PM
Wednesday	1/6/10	*WEST BRANCH	Away	7:30 PM
Saturday	1/9/10	*MARLINGTON	Home	2:30 PM
Wednesday	1/13/10	JACKSON	Home	7:30 PM
Saturday	1/16/10	*CARROLLTON	Home	2:30 PM
Wednesday	1/20/10	*LOUISVILLE	Away	7:30 PM
Saturday	1/23/10	*CANTON SOUTH	Home	2:30 PM
Saturday	1/30/10	*MINERVA	Home	7:30 PM
Monday	2/1/10	FAIRLESS	Away	7:30 PM
Wednesday	2/3/10	*ALLIANCE	Away	7:30 PM
Saturday	2/6/10	*WEST BRANCH	Home	2:30 PM
Wednesday	2/10/10	*MARLINGTON	Away	7:30 PM
Thursday	2/18/10	CHIPPEWA	Away	7:30 PM

HEAD COACH: John Martin
ASSISTANT COACH: Dave Sladky

ASSISTANT COACH: Josh Hose

2009-10 INDIANS WRESTLING

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Saturday	12/5/09	CAMBRIDGE INVITATIONAL	Cambridge	10:00 AM
Thursday	12/10/09	NW-TUSLAW-MASSILLON TRI	Home	6:00 PM
Thursday	12/17/09	*LOUISVILLE	Home	7:00 PM
Friday	12/18/09	50th HOOVER INVITATIONAL	Hoover	5:00 PM
Saturday	12/19/09	50th HOOVER INVITATIONAL	Hoover	10:00 AM
Saturday	12/19/09	50th HOOVER INVITATIONAL	Hoover	5:00 PM
Wednesday	12/23/09	NW QUAD	Home	5:00 PM
Tuesday	12/29/09	WHEELING PARK DUALS	Wheeling Park	9:00 AM
Wednesday	12/30/09	WHEELING PARK DUALS	Away	9:00 AM
Thursday	1/7/10	*MARLINGTON	Away	7:00 PM
Thursday	1/14/10	CARROLLTON	Home	7:00 PM
Friday	1/15/10	BILL DIES TOURNEY	Firestone	3:00 PM
Saturday	1/16/10	BILL DIES TOURNEY	Firestone	10:00 AM
Saturday	1/16/10	BILL DIES TOURNEY	Firestone	6:00 PM
Thursday	1/21/10	*MINERVA	Away	7:00 PM
Thursday	1/28/10	*ALLIANCE	Home	7:00 PM
Thursday	2/4/10	*CANTON SOUTH	Away	7:00 PM
Wednesday	2/10/10	*WEST BRANCH	Home	7:00 PM

HEAD COACH: David Tolarchyk
ASSISTANT COACH: Brian Ries

ASSISTANT COACH: Ray Griffin

Contact Numbers for Northwest Schools

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Mr. John Hexamer, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Dan Levensgood, Treasurer
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Northwest High School

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Northwest Middle School

Mr. Jay Baughman, Principal
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Northwest Intermediate School

Mrs. Lori Mariani, Principal
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Stinson Elementary School

Mrs. Lori Mariani, Principal
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Northwest Elementary

Mr. James LaRicca, Principal
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Northwest News

Northwest Local Schools
8614 Erie Ave. N
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

December 2009 :: Issue 2 of 4



Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

Northwest Forum:
You have questions;
we have answers.

www.northwest.sparcc.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

Community's Veterans are Honored

We Asked for Your Thoughts

Diana Pryor Named to County Teaching Team; Jessica Cogar Added to Rookie Team

One heart, one mind, Northwest Pride

Northwest Persons of Character

NW Schools Leave Northeastern Buckeye Conference

Oklahoma!

Dinner with Dad

Northwest Local Schools Financial Facts

Phase Two of Renovation & Construction Underway

Kay Stephan's Commitment

Winter Sports Schedule

Community's Veterans are Honored

Northwest High School held its annual Veterans Day program on Wednesday, Nov. 11, in Puffenberger Hall. The program included music by the Northwest High School concert band, under the direction of Mr. Gary Masowich, and choir, under the direction of Mr. John Hayward. Veterans of every branch of the military were recognized, and high school students paid respect to each Northwest High School graduate who died while in the military. We appreciate the efforts of our veterans and are grateful to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Northwest High School Roll of Honor

"They gave their lives so that we can live in freedom."

Michael C. Barkey
Keith E. Crawford
Thomas D. Culp
William L. Douglas

Michael S. Gozdon
Aaron M. Lockhart
Jeffrey P. Vaughn
Michael Crabtree

We shall never forget.



We Asked for Your Thoughts. Now we ask for your time.

We have listened to community members regarding the future of Northwest Schools over the past few months. Now we must create an action plan, and we invite you to be a part of this process. Please mark your calendars with the following dates, and check our Web site for specific times and locations:

January 11 at 6:30 p.m.: Four committees of community volunteers will report to the school board on their work. The committees are the Plan B Committee (holding coffees), the Independent Finance Committee, the Communications Committee and the Facilities Committee. The meeting will be held in the high school commons.

January 18 at 7:30 p.m.: We will hold a community meeting in Puffenberger Hall to provide another community wide opportunity for input and presentation of options to save our district.

January 25 at 7:30 p.m.: The board will weigh all options, reflect on all input and create an action plan. The meeting will be held in the high school choir room.



Northwest News

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QUALITY ACADEMIC

Diana Pryor Named to County Teaching Team Jessica Cogar Added to Rookie Team



Mrs. Diana Pryor, a special needs teacher at Stinson Elementary, has been named to the WHBC Stark County Teaching Team. A graduate of Garfield High School, the University of Akron and Marygrove College, Mrs. Pryor has always worked in special education. Her compassionate nature is obvious as she speaks of her commitment to those individuals who face many challenges

in life and her desire to help them overcome the obstacles before them.

This 15-year veteran of Northwest Local explains, "I enjoy working with small groups of students over a period of years because I become invested with the child. My reward is in those moments when the students really grasp what I've been trying to teach them. For many of these students, their day is stressful, so my class becomes their refuge. Then I have the opportunity to watch them obtain jobs in the community which make them feel successful and bring them contentment."

Mrs. Pryor accepts this award with humility because she says she works with so many fine teachers who also

deserve recognition: "We have a very good staff, people who are very committed. I know because they prepared my own three children (Mike, Karen and Matt) for the world ahead of them. We also have good parents. This is a wonderful community to live in."

Mrs. Pryor is truly an outstanding educator because she accepts every one of her students and works diligently to move them forward.



Jessica Cogar, a guidance counselor at Northwest Middle School, was named to the "Stark County Rookie Team." A graduate of Coventry High School and The Ohio State University, Mrs. Cogar attended Walsh University where she earned her M.A. in school counseling in 2007. As a "rookie," her goal is "to make a difference, to know I've affected children positively."

Principal of Northwest Middle School, Jay Baughman says, "She came in as a rookie, but performs like a true veteran. She has been overwhelmingly accepted and embraced by students, staff, and parents."

Phase Two of the Renovation and Construction Underway

The clock has begun ticking on phase two of the renovation and building program. Phase one of the building program used local shared monies of \$24 million, passed in a bond issue in 2002, to build Northwest Elementary and Northwest High School. Phase two will provide approximately \$29 million in state monies that will provide renovations and additions to Stinson Elementary/Intermediate School, the middle school and the high school. This phase is presently in the planning stage as the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission permits 26 months for completion of the work.

Richard Lutz, president of Lawrence and Dykes Architects, sees numerous benefits to the school district: "This project will provide complete system renovations, including new heating, air conditioning, electrical systems and technology. Both the elementary and middle schools must be LEED (Leadership Energy Efficient Design) Silver Certified, requiring that the energy usage of the building must be brought to a certain level. For example, the buildings will have new energy-efficient windows as well as measures that incorporate daylight in order to reduce the use of electrical lights."

Lutz stresses the importance of the additions of life-safety systems with new sprinkler systems throughout the building as well as improved security systems: "We will be building secure entries that will direct visitors to the main office and keep unwanted strangers from walking through the building."

Members of the facilities committee include Don Schalmo (local builder), Dave Walker (construction manager), Michael Kramer (energy consultant), Gary Johnson (manager at Carter Lumber) and Jim Gindlesberger (board of education member). This committee is overseeing the entire project. In addition, two parents, Teresa Hinkle and Derek Pullen, serve on the middle school design team.

For more detailed information about the ongoing project, please go to www.northwest.sparcc.org, and click on "Department of Buildings and Grounds." We will keep you updated on the specifics and progress of the work. For more information about LEED and the efforts of the U.S. Green Building Council, please go to www.usgbc.org. For more information about the Ohio School Facilities Commission, please go to <http://www.osfc.state.oh.us/>.

Kay Stephan's Commitment



Photo identification of card club members:
Back row, L-R: Sandy (Wagner) Yingling, Kay (Kunkle) Stephan, Joanne (Williams) Llewellyn
Front row, L-R: Sheri (Swigart) Swartz, Denise (Bordenkircher) Bowman, Evelyn (Gumbarvic) Nelson, Diane (Ludwig) Gunter, Helen (Riggs) Weygandt

Kay Stephan's commitment to the Northwest Schools is really no surprise, considering the impact the district has had on her life. Her father, John Kunkle, a graduate of Clinton High School, played an active part in the consolidation of the district and building of the schools in the 1950s. She married her high school sweetheart, Denny Stephan, and their three sons, Sean, Scott and Joel, graduated from Northwest. Kay feels that the schools provided a solid education for her children: "I would be sick if anything happened to Northwest. We need to buck up and do whatever we can. Where else can you find a community like this where you can safely rear your children?"

This 1964 graduate of Northwest High School recently retired from The University of Akron's Wayne College where she taught business English, office skills and computer

skills. She has also started her own company, Classic Protocol, which provides etiquette training for businesses, professional organizations and university leadership programs. Kay began her career teaching at Northwest High School in the late 1960s until she became a full-time mom.

For the past 41 years, Kay and seven high school friends from the class of 1964 get together one Monday each month to play cards or Mexican Train Dominoes, share stories and reminisce. Four women are from Clinton—Diane, Evelyn, Denise and Kay. Four are from Canal Fulton—Helen, Sheri, Sandy and Joanne. Most were in the band under the direction of Mr. Puffenberger, and their "superior" rating led to a televised performance in 1963 in Cleveland. Over the years, they have supported each other through weddings, baby showers, graduation parties and funerals. Together they plan their high school reunions every five years. The merging of the school districts in Clinton and Canal Fulton seemed to provide more opportunities for long-lasting friendships; there were no distinctions between the towns.

Kay hasn't been happy with all of the decisions that the district has made over the years, so she has become involved in the community effort to study the finances and practices of the schools. She believes the coffees are helping people obtain direct answers to their questions and stop some of the rumors. She feels that some residents of the community have become mired in "bad blood, bad feelings, misconception, mistrust that we must get past if anything is going to change." She adds, "It's like a divorce. We either have to get over it or give up." Last year, in order to celebrate their fortieth anniversary, Kay's card club of high school friends attended the last show of the Carousel Dinner Theater for the first time, just before it closed permanently. Kay compared the experience to the situation in Northwest, "We take things for granted, thinking that they're going to be around forever. I hope the same thing doesn't happen to Northwest Schools."

Join us in celebrating Northwest Local Schools! One heart, one mind, Northwest pride!

Date: Sunday, January 31, 2010
Location: High School Commons, Bus Garage, Puffenberger Hall
Time: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Experience the delectables, the sites, and the heart and sounds of Northwest! Activities include a "Delectables of Northwest," community activities for students, student performances, quest speakers, and much more! Busses will be available to shuttle attendees from each location.

For more information on the event, visit: www.northwest.sparcc.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Northwest News

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Board of Education



Nikki Metzger, Steve Jones, Jim Gindlesberger, Rita Gearhart and Barb Whiting

Committed to an Open & Transparent District

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NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOLS FINANCIAL FACTS

Dan Levengood, Treasurer

The financial position of the Northwest Local School District is in dire straights. This message has been circulated throughout our community for quite some time and through many different means. However, there are still many questions and much confusion as to the true state of the school district's financial position. Based on questions I have received and comments that I have heard I would like to share the following facts about Northwest Local School's financial position.

I will address additional financial facts in future publications of the *Northwest News*. If you have a specific question or concern you would like me to address, please contact me by phone at 330.854.6397, e-mail at Levengood.d@northwest.sparcc.org, or write to me at 8614 Erie Ave. N, Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614.

- Northwest Local Schools finished the 2009 school year \$1,124,954.00 in debt.
- Northwest has been placed in Fiscal Caution by the Ohio Department of Education. This means that an individual from the Ohio Department of Education is on site once a month to review and complete an analysis of our revenue and expenditures.
- Fiscal Emergency and state takeover allows us to borrow money to operate our school on a daily basis. All money borrowed must be repaid within the allowed time.
- The amount of money Northwest receives in local real estate tax and state aid annually ranks our district in the bottom 3% of the state for revenue received per student.
- Northwest receives tax dollars for general operating expenses and also for what is called Permanent Improvement needs. Permanent Improvement Funds can only be used for brick and mortar type of expenditures. The bus garage was purchased using dollars from the Permanent Improvement Fund and not the General Operating Fund. The Permanent Improvement Fund is the source of funds used to make the payments on the loan.
- Northwest certified and administrative staffs will not receive a base salary increase for four years under the current contract, and the classified staff will not receive a base increase under their current contract. This action will save the district more than \$1,000,000 during that time.
- Total expenditures for school year 2007 were \$18,605,853, and the budget for the 2010 school year is \$16,952,251. The budget reductions and staff layoffs included in the 2010 budget represent an 8.8 percent decrease in spending.

EDUCATION

Northwest "Persons of Character"

Northwest Local Schools recently named its "Persons of Character," and these individuals were honored at a ceremony sponsored by the Stark County Educational Service Center. These people are chosen to represent a school building because they represent the qualities of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness and caring. Here are the tributes to each "Person of Character":

Jill Boak – Northwest Elementary



Jill Boak

"Jill has served Northwest Local Schools with dignity and pride. There is no student need that Jill does not try to meet. She has served as a student aide, a playground aide, an office aide and a library aide. Her cheerful disposition often hides the difficult tasks assigned to her. She greets everyone with respect and a smile. She reflects the faith she holds so true and makes the most out of every situation. She is an asset to our school and school district."

Miss Joan Cogan – W. S. Stinson and Northwest Intermediate

"Joan Cogan was selected as our person of character because of her past and current contributions to this school district. A graduate of The Ohio State University and Walsh College, she taught 22 years and served as a school counselor for 13 years. Miss Cogan created the first character program and implemented the first anti-bullying program at Northwest. Both are still an integral part of the Stinson and Intermediate counseling curriculum. She lives by the Hindu proverb: "Those who give, have all things; those who withhold, have nothing." She continues to give to students through her own scholarship program, which has helped

Northwest seniors achieve their goals. We thank Joan Cogan for all she has done and continues to do for the Northwest Local School District."

Cindy Lane – Northwest Middle School



Cindy Lane

"Miss Cindy Lane exhibits all six pillars a "Person of Character" embodies. Her students attest she's both a fair and caring teacher, going above and beyond her classroom duties by becoming a role model, parent, nurse and even a good friend to many. Her peers will tell you she's a trustworthy, respectful colleague, having a pure and genuine spirit that noticeably emanates throughout the day. As a responsible, good citizen, who is very active in her church and community, Cindy is truly a person of character."

Dan Levengood – Northwest High School



Joan Cogan & Dan Levengood

"Even though our district continues to struggle in a very difficult financial situation, Mr. Levengood continues to be responsible and accountable to our community while also being honest and emphatic about how the proposed budgetary reductions impact students.

Such reductions are discussed to seek input, as a means to democratically determine the best direction to proceed. Mr. Levengood is very approachable and is always willing to meet with staff to discuss any questions about budgetary procedures."

Northwest Local Schools Leave Northeastern Buckeye Conference

The Northwest Local School District has officially left the NBC. This is just one of the many ramifications of the district cutting back on extracurricular activities. After the levy defeat in May of 2009, the district drafted a withdrawal letter and presented it to the NBC, which voted unanimously to accept it.

The district will field teams through the 2010-2011 school year in order to fulfill its contract commitments with the NBC. Even if additional funding becomes available, it will be difficult for Northwest to rejoin the NBC and will make it increasingly difficult to find teams to compete against.

"This is a sad time for Northwest," said Athletic Director Gary Woods. "After 59 years of competition, the Northwest sports program will cease to exist. And it isn't just sports; all extracurricular activities will end. And the lessons the students learn outside of the classroom will go untaught."



Northwest News

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OKLAHOMA!

Northwest High School students performed *Oklahoma!* on November 19-22 in Puffenburger Hall to rave reviews.



Jacob Hazlett as Will



Chris King (background) and Brandon Konen



Rachel Farley as Aunt Eller



Andrew Poulsen as Curley, Rebekah Morrison as Laurie and Zachary Ford as Jud



Jarod Hare and Christian Evrard



Rebekah Morrison as Laurie and Nathan Bille as the Traveling Salesman.



Andrew Poulsen as Curley and Rebekah Morrison as Laurie



Rebekah Morrison as Laurie and Lauren Henry as Ado Annie

Northwest Elementary Hosts "Dinner with Dad"

About 600 dads and their children attended the "Dinner with Dad" event held in the high school commons on Oct. 22. All attendees were treated to a delicious dinner provided by Carolina Barbeque. Dads also had an opportunity to be photographed with their children, to win door prizes and to purchase chances for 50/50 tickets or special baskets. The evening ended with a performance of Dr. Weirdo, Jamie Ely. A 9-year-veteran of Mad Science of Northeast Ohio, Ely explains the program, "We show kids that science is not just equations and formulas. It's hands-on fun!"



Front, L-R Crystal Kornick, Kristen Harbaugh B, L-R Amy Swope, Crystal Cheshire and Judy Skelley



David Derry and John



Erick Stookey and Brook



Earl Speedy and Collin



Brad Tackett and Chase



Eric Mann and Haley

