

Northwest News

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

March 2010:: Issue 4



Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education

Northwest Forum:

You have questions;
we have answers.

www.northwest.sparcc.org

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The Northwest Local School District placed a 1% Earned income tax on the May ballot in order to stay solvent and bring back some of the needed programs for our students. However, in order to maintain fiscal responsibility, the district will not be able to bring everything back. Please see page 2 for detailed information.

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MAY

4

**YOUR PLAN
YOUR VOTE**

NORTHWEST
SCHOOLS

EARNED Income Tax

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WHAT DOES A

SAVING THE NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL

**If the community would approve a
it would mean the Northwest School District...**

- **WILL** keep the Northwest Local School District intact
- **WILL** begin the replacement of outdated textbooks
- **WILL** begin the upgrade of outdated technology
- **WILL** reinstate extra-curricular, curricular and co-curricular activities in 2011-2012
- **WILL** continue present pay-to-participate fees
- **WILL** have professional development for our staff
- **WILL** have all-day, every-day kindergarten for all children in 2012-2013
- **WILL** eliminate debt in 2012
- **WILL** mean a continuation of the existing 1992 levy which must be passed before November of 2012 in order to remain solvent in the future
- **WILL** mean we stop staff reductions
- **WILL** mean we have highly qualified teachers in every classroom

Yes **VOTE MEAN?**

DISTRICT WILL REQUIRE A TWO-STEP PLAN.

1% EARNED income tax issue now,

- **WILL NOT** restore high school busing
- **WILL NOT** reduce class sizes
- **WILL NOT** have field trips
- **WILL NOT** rehire employees who were laid-off due to the financial crisis
- **WILL NOT** eliminate pay-to-participate fees
- **WILL NOT** reduce student school fees
- **WILL NOT** guarantee league affiliation or a full football schedule in the fall of 2011
- **WILL NOT** subsidize summer school
- **WILL NOT** have middle school concept programming or exploratory classes
- **WILL NOT** increase the reduced graduation requirements
- **WILL NOT** reinstate vocational programs or electives lost through reductions

In order to maintain fiscal responsibility, the Northwest Local School District will not be able to bring everything back.

For more information, visit www.northwest.sparcc.org



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Northwest Students Serve the Community

Northwest Elementary students and staff raised over one thousand dollars for the American Heart Association through "Jump Ropes and Hoops for Hearts." Miss Bev Hamsher worked with the students who trained for 50 minutes of sustained exercise through various fitness stations. The elementary students also collected over \$1600 for the Airfare Assistance Fund, which assists soldiers with plane fare home when they cannot afford it, from the Kiss the Pig contest.

Stinson and the Intermediate were change bandits for WKDD's "Have a Heart, Do Your Part" for Akron Children's Hospital. The students collected change and paid \$1.00 to purchase paper hearts and have them displayed in the halls. A fourth-grade student, Jesyah White, wanted to raise money for the earthquake victims in Haiti. Therefore, the teachers and the Betterment League agreed to match the amount of money raised by the students. The students' donation went to Akron Children's Hospital, and the adults matched the amount of the students' donation and sent it to the Red Cross.

Middle school students participated in "Jeans for Teens" in February in conjunction with Northwest High School. Students and staff members collected old gently used jeans that were going to be donated to needy teens. The first 100,000 pairs were to be given to Haiti.

Juice and Pop Tarts were sold at the middle school through December and January with the proceeds going to MECCA or Mothers Emergency Christian Care Aid. MECCA is a local organization that helps families in need.

Starting March 1, middle school students will be running a "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. This program asks students



Front row: L-R Aidan McCoy, Luke Miklos, Kennedy Kraft, Brady Schenz, David Carothers

Back row: L-R Miss Bev Hamsher, Dagan Parker, Liyah Naim, Kelsey Lawrence, Jordan Marecek, Nick Crookston

to bring in spare change which will be donated to children who are struggling with leukemia and lymphoma.

In addition to the "Jeans for Teens" project, Northwest High School students collected money for the victims in Haiti. In December the Student Council collected items to provide care packages for military personnel while government students worked with a local church to pack baskets for needy families. Sociology students and members of National Honor Society adopted needy families and provided them with food and personal care items.



David Dill Wins Spelling Bee

The winner of the Northwest District Spelling Bee is sixth-grader David Dill of the Intermediate School. Runners-up are seventh-grade Levi Nettle and eighth-grader Parker Johnson of Northwest Middle School and eighth-grader Ben Salupo of Sts. Philip and James School. The district spelling bee was held on Feb. 17 in Puffenberger Hall with Mr. Forrest Smith as the reader. Mr. Smith is a professor at Akron University as well as a Northwest parent.

David became the winner when he spelled "psychoanalysis" and "labyrinth" correctly. He moves on to the Repository 64th Regional Grand Final Spelling Bee which takes place at the GlenOak Theatre on Saturday, March 6, at 1:30 p.m.



CANAL FULTON LIONS CLUB FARMERS' MARKET AND MORE!

OPEN EVERY THURSDAY

JULY 15 to SEPT. 9, 2010

4 to 7 PM

The third season of the Lions Club Farmers' Market in Canal Fulton will soon begin. Sign up now!

For further information, please contact Paul Bagocius at 330-854-4645 or through email: paulbagocius@netscape.net

Register early. Space is limited. Make a Profit.

“TECHNO GRAVEYARD: Most of the computers in Northwest school labs date back to 1998”

By Erin Pustay

January 31, 2010

Reprinted with permission from The Independent

If there is anyone who knows the value of ingenuity and prolonging the life of technology, it's Brian Paisley, Northwest Local's technology director. Paisley's office, in fact, is proof of how well he does his job. Pieces and parts of computers, monitors and even software are scattered about the office space just off the middle school library. His work space has come to resemble a high-tech graveyard, of sorts.

And Paisley is the Dr. Frankenstein who, somehow, manages to bring it back to life.

When one of the district's computers dies, he saves it, stripping it of all usable parts. When enough computers go kaput, Paisley will have managed to salvage enough parts to put at least one of them back in computer labs and classrooms.

“All of this,” Paisley said, “is a Band-Aid fix. What we really need is new equipment.”

Northwest and Stinson Elementary School students are working on computers older than they are. The iMac G3s that are tucked into computer labs and onto teachers' desks in those buildings were purchased in 1998 and discontinued in 2003.

“Those computers,” Paisley said, “can no longer be upgraded.”

That means that most new software programs donated to the district by area businesses or purchased for student learning by parent groups won't be compatible with the outdated computer equipment.

Turns out, though, 1998 was a good year for Northwest computers. A large portion of the computers that students in the district use today are from 1998. In fact, the district received 270 discarded Compaq DC500 computers several years ago. It was a great thing, Paisley said, but malfunctioning motherboards have left them with just 140.

“There was a defect in the manufacturing,” Paisley said, “and you never know when it's going to go. One day you turn it on and it pops. Sometimes, the motherboard just goes after it short circuits. It only costs \$250 to replace it, but that's \$250 that the district doesn't have.”

Most recently, the district was able to “update” some computers by purchasing 100 used computers from the Jackson Local School district for \$35 each. Those computers were distributed among all of the district's buildings and are able to support some of the newer software.

For now, Jackson's old computers seem to making the grade, but Paisley said he'd like to see those computers be the back-ups and not the ones that teachers and students depend on.

Getting Northwest students the technology they need right away would mean immediately replacing 100 iMac computers at Northwest Elementary, 60 iMacs at Stinson and Northwest Intermediate and getting two new servers that would serve the entire district.

Within one year, Paisley would like to replace 60 personal computers at Northwest Middle School and 30 more at the high school.

In the next two years, Northwest Middle School would need an additional 20 PC desktops and two servers.

With levy funding provided by a \$2.24 million, five-year, 1-percent income tax levy, some of those things on Paisley's wish list could be fulfilled. Until then, however, he'll continue to scavenge for parts and build computers.

Northwest, he said, will continue to make do.

Northwest Elementary Has Been Named an “Energy Star” Labeled Building



Northwest Elementary has earned the honor of being named an “Energy Star” labeled building by the Environmental Protection Agency. Only 52 K-12 buildings in Ohio have received the certification.

Northwest Elementary was newly constructed in 2005. As part of the new construction, an Automatic Logic Corporation WebCntrl building automation system was

installed to control all major pieces of the HVAC equipment in the building.

School buildings that have earned the Energy Star Award use nearly 40 percent less energy than average buildings and emit 35 percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, offering a significantly smaller carbon footprint. Buildings excel due to good energy management practices such as routine energy efficiency benchmarking.



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“Right to Read Week” has Olympic Theme

This year’s “Right to Read Week” at Stinson Elementary and the Intermediate School was “Be a Gold Medal Reader.” The week was kicked off with an opening ceremony that featured Rocky, the school mascot, and sustained silent reading by the student body and faculty. Activities during the week included a hockey tournament in gym class and “Wrap Yourself Around a Good Book” as students were encouraged to wear a scarf to school.



Lucas O’Brien



Rachel Ross



Northwest Schools participate in Right to Read Week



Rocky, Janelle Hart and Principal Lori Mariani

Middle School has Outstanding Athletic Success

Principal Jay Baughman is having trouble finding space for all of the trophies earned by athletic teams of Northwest Middle School during this 2009-2010 school year, and this success is bittersweet.

During the fall, the seventh-grade football team became co-champions of the league with West Branch. The seventh-grade volleyball and the eighth-grade volleyball teams captured first place in the NBC. Winter sports have brought tournament championships in seventh-grade boys’ basketball, eighth-grade girls’ basketball and eighth-grade boys’ basketball. Those six championships have been achieved in the nine sports available in the conference.

In addition, two eighth-grade athletes have distinguished themselves in wrestling. Jerrad Cox took first place and Austin Slusser took fifth place at the district wrestling tournament and advanced to the state tournament.

Mr. Baughman is proud of his student athletes, but he said sadly, “It is quite an accomplishment, yet it has the potential to disappear as Northwest faces a possible elimination of extra-curricular activities beginning with the fall of 2011.”

One Heart. One Mind. Northwest Pride.

Community Turns Out Big to Support Schools

On Jan. 31, 2010, the Northwest community came together to celebrate Northwest Pride. Local businesses sponsored the event, and there was plenty of food and fun activities for people of all ages.



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Board of Education



Bruce Beadle, Rita Gearhart, Steve Jones, Nikki Metzger, and Jim Gindlesberger

Committed to an Open & Transparent District

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The Northwest Local School District is moving forward with Your Plan.

Over the last several months, the district has been asking the Northwest community for its feedback on the future of our schools. We formed three independent resident volunteer committees to help guide us: Plan B Committee, Facilities Committee and the Finance Committee. The Plan B Committee held more than 30 Community Coffees asking residents for their opinions. We also reached out through the district newsletters, school newsletters, e-mail communications, and community meetings and events.

Considering the community's feedback and following the recommendation from the Finance Committee, the district has placed a 1% Earned income tax on the May ballot.

We have asked community members how the school district should move forward. And many answered us. This is truly Your Plan.

This means:

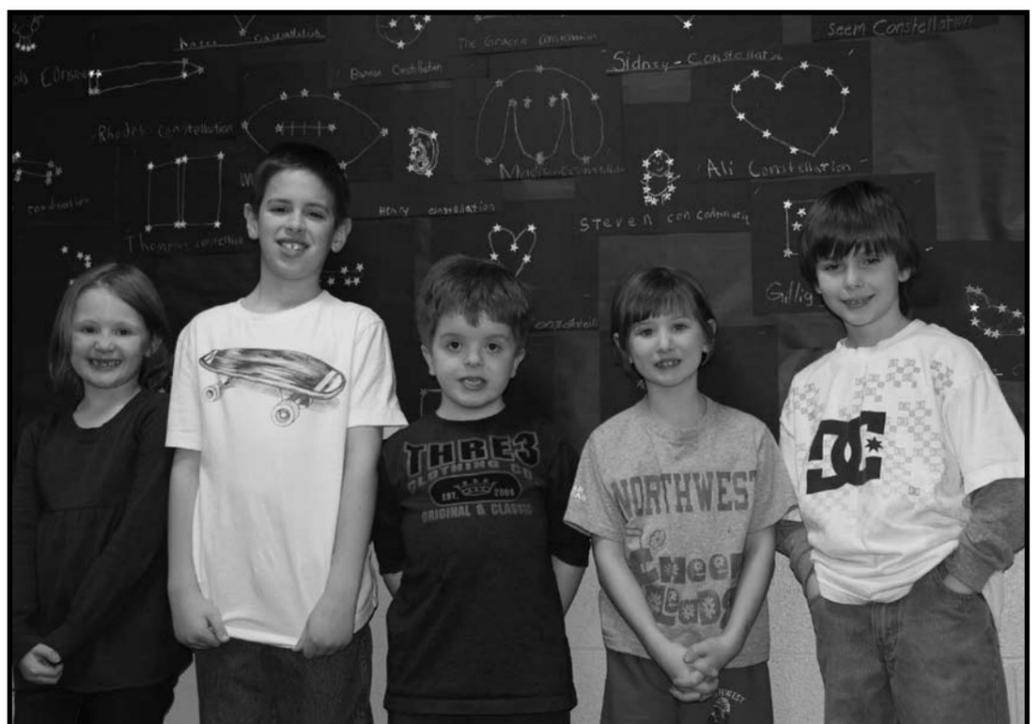
- Your Plan. Your Vote.
- A 1% Earned Income Tax will be placed on the May ballot
- Passing the issue will not bring everything back.

Constellation Project

Following their study of the solar system, second-grade students at Northwest Elementary recently created their own constellations.

Mrs. Lisbeth Wos explained to students that ancient Greeks thought they saw pictures in the stars, and she encouraged her students to choose something important to them, such as a pet or a football, and to create a constellation out of black construction paper. Students then named the new constellation after their first or last name.

Mrs. Wos said, "The students had so much fun making the constellations, and I think they have a much better idea of what a constellation really is now."



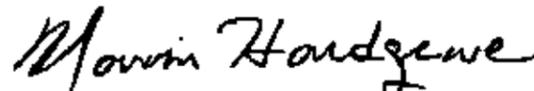
Zoey Bland, Nathan Bowman, Steven Sowards, Allison Giroux, Jake White

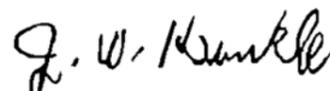
A Note from the Independent Financial Advisory Committee

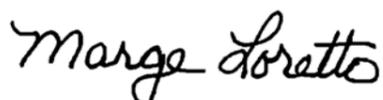
Dear Northwest Residents:

There are no easy solutions to this financial crisis. After examining many scenarios, the Independent Community Financial Oversight Committee recommends the passing of a 1% Earned Income tax as the best solution to a severe community problem.


Ben Easterling


Marvin Hardgrove


Jim Kunkle


Marge Loretto


Dr. Ajay Nair


Steve Ries


Kay Stephan

About The Independent Financial Oversight Committee

This committee of community volunteers studied the finances, analyzing the present budget, the five-year forecast and the needs of the district. The group tackled the job with no agenda, and their efforts led to four plans that would give focus to the district's financial problems. The committee recommended a \$2.24 million school finance issue in the form of a 1% EARNED income tax, that would bring back some programs and allow the district to eliminate its debt.

Northwest Building Program Frequently Asked Questions and Corresponding Answers Can be Found at:

www.northwest.sparcc.org



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HOW WILL THE 1% EARNED INCOME TAX

If the issue passes:

- Retirees and unemployed residents will not pay.
- Only those residents actively EARNING a paycheck will pay.
- Your pensions, income from retirement savings, rental property income and social security WILL NOT BE TOUCHED. Only earned income.
- Residents concerned about losing their jobs would not pay if the unfortunate job loss occurs.
- The school district will be able to provide the minimum services required to operate.

Who Pays:

- Farmers do not pay this tax on their land.
- The tax will not affect retired community members.
- The tax will not affect the unemployed.
- Only people who live in the district pay the tax.
- A person who loses his or her job will not pay the tax.

Go to www.northwest.sparcc.org

to learn what a “For” vote and an “Against” vote means on May 4.

AFFECT NORTHWEST'S RESIDENTS?

Earned Income Tax Taxes the Following

- Wages and Tips
- Self-employed
- Partnership Income

Earned Income Tax DOES NOT tax the following:

- Interest
- Dividends
- Capital Gains
- Pensions
- Annuity Income
- Rental Income
- Lottery Winnings
- Unemployment
- Income from Estates
- Social Security Benefits
- Incorporated Businesses



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EARNED
INCOME TAX

NORTHWEST
SCHOOLS

Solution Recommended by
Independent Finance Committee



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First-Graders Study Importance of Families

First-grade students in Mrs. Linda Holl's class recently completed a project on families, following a number of generational stories that they read in their language arts anthology. Mrs. Holl said she feels projects help students better understand the stories that they read. Kelsey Gunter smiled as she explained, "We care about our families because they take care of you."



Front row: Savanha Cramer and Kelsey Gunter
Back row: Austin Donaldson, Richard Joyner and Patrick McKelroy

Science Fair is a Family Night

Northwest Elementary held its annual science fair night with projects that ranged from "Birthdays in Space" to "Color Changing Carnations." Principal Jim LaRiccia promoted the projects as a great opportunity for students to learn science and a wonderful way for families to spend time together. More than 30 families took part in the activity.



Steven Rader with Scott and Kary Rader



Katie Flickinger with Megan and Mick Flickinger



Patrick McElroy with his Dirty Ice Project.



Jerni Shankland with her Gooley Gunk Project.