



# OWL NEWS

**Winter 2019**

## **Dr. Cosby's Wise Words:**



What an amazing winter we have had with all of the snow and cold temperatures.

If you are like me, you are anticipating April showers and May flowers; but we still have to get through March! It is also a time to consider how you will finish out this school year and prepare for the next. It is never too late to do better in school. One opportunity you have that will increase your success in school is to show up! Coming to school every day prepared to learn is the distinction between those students who do well and those who do great!

Parents, I would also like to recommend that you encourage your child/children to participate in a school activity. This activity could be sports, music, the arts, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) club or whatever peaks their interest. Students who participate in extracurricular activities tend to have better attendance and better grades. We all want what is best for our students so let's help them make good choices with their time.

If you are a parent or guardian of a child who will be eligible to attend pre-school next year, I strongly encourage you to sign him/her up for this educational experience. It will give them the start they need for a great school experience. Mt. Healthy has a 5 star pre-school program. If you choose to keep your preschool age child home, remember to teach them as many skills as you can prior to them coming to Kindergarten. A few items to work on would include counting to 10, their colors, how to spell their names, how to tie their shoes, their address, how to sit still for 5 to 10 minutes, and how to ask for help by raising their hand. Reading to them is most important. If your child likes to watch TV or play some video games, have a time limit and make sure the content is educational. These suggestions will put your child on the same footing as their peers. Through this partnership, we will instill a love of learning together by knowing they are prepared and can do what is asked of them. Thank you for all you do for your children in conjunction with Mt. Healthy City Schools.

## **Mt. Healthy Striving Reader's Grant Update and LETRS Implementation**



The implementation of the Striving Readers Grant (SRG) is well under way! The district has conducted four face-to-face professional development trainings for teachers of the LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) program so far this year. Teachers have also completed over 14.5 hours of online modules that enhance their understanding of these evidence-based practices. The LETRS program journeys into the science of reading, and how that impacts student learning and teacher instruction.

Instructional audits have taken place in many classrooms to collect baseline data for SRG. One highlight of these audits has been strong evidence of the program's impact in the primary grades surrounding phonological awareness instruction, one of the five components of reading instruction. Teachers have been utilizing the Heggerty program in grades K-3. These lessons are briskly paced, highly engaging and enjoyable for the students. Recent data from the universal screener, STAR, shows 40% of kindergarten students moving from off track to on track between September and January.

LETRS implementation has had a positive response from teachers, "I just want you to know that the growth I am witnessing in my classroom due to LETRS and Rewards together is amazing. It has changed my instruction completely," stated one elementary school teacher. "My students LOVE to read and even my lowest students beg to read out loud in class even though they are struggling. They have the tools they need to get through the passage, and they're not embarrassed anymore."



## Jr/Sr High School

### Jr/Sr High School Introduces a College and Career Fair For Students

Mt. Healthy Jr/Sr High School hosted the first annual College and Career Fair for students on the campus recently. There were over 40 colleges, businesses, and branches of the military in attendance in addition to career and vocational opportunities. It was a tremendous success as it allowed students in multiple grade levels to speak to college representatives, business owners or entrepreneurs, and vocational career representatives. In addition, a panel of four successful graduates spoke to seniors about their experiences and journeys through college and career paths. This was exceptionally beneficial for many seniors as several stayed after the panel discussion to speak to the graduates.



Bob Buchheim, Jr/Sr High School Principal, explained, "The job fair setting allowed our students to speak with representatives during the school day. We have already planned next year's event, and we hope to expand our number of outside agencies. We wish to thank the representatives for their support and dedication to our academic and school-based programs."

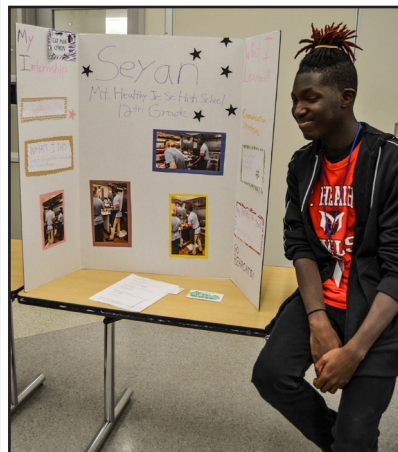
### School Resource Officers Meet with Junior High Students



Mt. Healthy Junior High students met with the School Resources Officers to discuss and learn more about social media responsibility and etiquette. Officer Byrd and Officer McPherson talked with them mainly about the importance of being safe and responsible on all social media platforms. They offered tips and insights on how to keep their online reputations safe as well as reminding them to say something if they see something online that is suspicious or could put others in danger.

### Mt. Healthy Students Participate in Program Gaining Job Skills

Students in the Mt. Healthy High School SCOPE program participated in the CEES (Collaboration for Employment and Education Synergy) program at the University of Cincinnati. Sixteen students, once a week, traveled to UC main campus working in jobs building their job and employability skills. They take a lot of pride in their work and apply themselves at their jobs! Some worked in office settings making copies or delivering items to other offices, while some others worked in campus food areas preparing and cooking food. In the past several students have been able to obtain employment at UC based off of their work with CEES.



The CEES program is a special opportunity that provides Mt. Healthy special needs students the ability to gain competitive integrated employment.

In November, all sixteen students displayed poster board presentations about their jobs. Their presentations represented their experiences at CEES since the beginning of the school year.



# North Elementary

## North Elementary Welcomed ROKCincy and MadCap Productions



ROKCincy is Roundabout Opera for Kids, and they travel the city performing for school groups and organizations of young people. They performed Little Red Riding Hood for kindergarteners through fourth graders at Mt. Healthy North Elementary. Students were quite engaged as well as active participants in the performance.

ROKCincy is a non-profit program that exposes children to an opera performance in addition to introducing them to the theatrical terms of staging.

Furthermore, the performances are free, and they also supply a study guide to connect and engage the students in the performances.

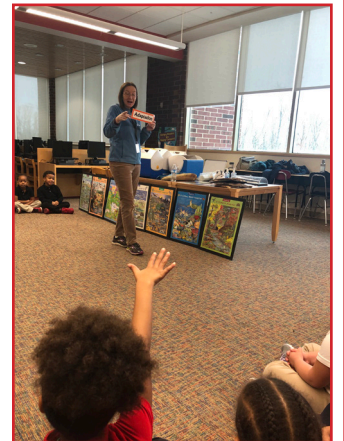
Additionally, MadCap theater performed for the Kindergartners through third graders in December. They presented "The Mystery of the Missing Backpack," where the characters were sleuth detectives searching for a missing backpack.



## STEM Learning at North Through Outside Programs



Cincinnati Museum Center Programs on Wheels came to North Elementary in January. They brought with them interactive, educational, and entertaining lessons in a wide variety of topics. Students were able to experience various science topics through hands on experiences such as identifying race, gender, and characteristics from human remains to learning about the adaptations of common animals. Students learned about and participated in hands on activities with the Coral Reefs (Kindergarten), Animal Adaptations (1st grade), Superheroes of STEMville (6th grade), and



Forensics Crime Lab (5th grade). This experience presented science in a comfortable and engaging format that required students to think critically in both independent and group settings.

## Three North Students Chosen for Scholarship at Cincinnati Ballet

The Cincinnati Ballet offered auditions to three North students in January, and out of 100 students who auditioned, our three and 27 other students were chosen to attend ballet classes on scholarship for the Winter and Spring seasons. This is quite an honor for our students as well as Mt. Healthy City Schools, since this was the first year of participation in the Cincinnati Ballet's program with schools.



## Winter Music Concert in December

North Choir performed their Winter Music Concert in December to a fantastic crowd of parents, and family members. They perform three to four times a year exhibiting their beautiful voices and expanding talent.



## South Elementary

### Mt. Healthy South Elementary Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with Dreaming Big



At Mt. Healthy South Elementary, students and staff are “Making the Change and Dreaming Big” that celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Through the teaching and guidance of Mrs. Amber Harris-Reed, South Elementary students presented “Make That Change and Dream Big” Celebration of Dr. King’s life and message on Friday, January 18, 2019. Fourth through sixth grade students presented the Dream Presentation by where they read a poem, which was a combined musical and spoken-word performance using Dr. King’s words to honor him. They watched Kid President video talking about Dr. King and his dream. Then they intently listened as Dr. Reva

Cosby, Mt. Healthy City Schools Superintendent, shared the stories and dreams that came true of three well-known women, including herself. Shia Stearns performed an interpretative dance as Mrs. Harris-Reed sang “Up the Mountain” by Patty Griffin.

During the Kindergarten through third grade performance, students also presented “We Can Be Like Martin”, a poem describing the importance of following in Dr. King’s footsteps. They also sang “Sing About Martin” together, telling of some of his great accomplishments. In addition, They listend as Dr. Cosby talked with them about former President Barack Obama and his dreams of becoming the first African-American President of the United States.



### Mt. Healthy South Elementary Honors Veterans



Mt. Healthy South Elementary staff and students held their annual Veteran’s Day Program to honor local veterans and their families. Several veterans, who are family members to elementary school students, attended the program as well

as American Legion Post 513 members were recognized for their service to our country. Students proclaimed the Pledge of Allegiance and listened as the American Legion Commander explained each of the flags of the color guard and their importance. “Star Spangled Banner” and “My County Tis of Thee” were sung by students while several others played music with drum sticks and the xylophones to “Yankee Doodle”. They performed a poem set to percussion called “Veteran’s Day” and “America’s White Table”

South Principal Yzvetta Macon stated, “I was proud of our students in their tribute to honor our veterans. Our students extended a heartfelt thank you to our honorable veterans by expressing their gratitude through personal “thank you” letters during the closing of the program. We are tremendously proud to honor these great men and women who courageously served our country.”

### Breakfast with Santa and Concert

South Families celebrated a pre-Christmas breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus in December. Families could get their pictures taken, write a letter to Santa and put it in the mailbox, make fun holiday crafts, and listen as the 5th and 6th grade band and music students performed.





# Owl Athletics and Fine Arts

## Owl Bites

Boys Basketball (15-7, 11-1 SWOC) **won SWOC League**

SWOC scoring leaders: Aushadon Mathis 11.9 (4th)

SWOC rebounding leaders: Brandon Lanier 9.0 (3rd)

SWOC steals leaders: Kollin Tolbert 2.0 (3rd)

Boys Basketball was nominated in January for Enquirer Team of the Week

Girls Basketball (9-13, 3-9 SWOC) 5th place

Breanna Clemons leads the conference in FG% (49.0)

Noel Weathers leads SWOC in scoring (3rd)

SWOC rebound leaders: Noel Weathers 8.2 (5th), Kimara Richard 7.4 (4th)

## Wrestling

Jodiyah Howard finished 3rd 185 lbs in SWOC

Kevin White 2nd 120 lb Season 23 wins - 7 losses;

Rasheed Deweesd 4th 126lb

Girls and Boys Bowling: Both teams are small, but mighty. They've worked hard this season, and we're proud of the effort and competitive spirit.

## From Fall Sports:

Lonnie Phelps Jr signed early to play football for Miami University Redhawks next year.

Alex Howard signed to play football for Youngstown State University in the Fall.

D'Aryon Yelton signed to play football for Wilmington College in the Fall.



## Choir and Band Excerpts

Choir presented a show in December that was outstanding and truly exemplified the beautiful voices of our choir. They even performed one of Mr. Moore's originally written songs, which they sang heavenly.

On Jan 26, over 50 choir and band students performed at OMEA (Ohio Music Educator Association) Solo and Ensemble Contest; 29 choir members and 37 band members. Students in grades 9-12 from across the city all met at Elder High School and performed before the judges. All of our soloists and ensembles received top ratings of Superior, Excellent, or Good. Not only did our students perform extremely well but they demonstrated great school pride by supporting each other and students from schools across the city. From choir, of four soloist students two earned Superior and two earned Excellent. The two ensembles earned Excellent ratings. From our band, of two soloists, one earned Superior and one earned Excellent. In ensembles, one earned Excellent and three earned Good.





# Extra Bites and Calendar Dates

## Mt. Healthy City Schools Partners with

### The HealthCare Connection

Mt. Healthy City Schools is partnering with The HealthCare Connection to provide medical, dental, and other social service necessities for school families. They will be sending flyers home as well as attending a few key events to assist families. For more information, please visit our website [www.mthcs.org](http://www.mthcs.org) and About Us.

## Mt. Healthy City Schools Continues Parent Engagement Seminar

Woven Traditions Parent and Community Engagement Seminar continues into 2019. The meeting provides the opportunity for parents, community members, and schools to connect and better understand types of cultural skills necessary for academic and social success of Mt. Healthy students. If you would like to join this group, contact Dr. Andre' Roldan for more information at [aroldan@mthcs.org](mailto:aroldan@mthcs.org).

## Upcoming Events and Activities

- 2/25-3/1 North Book Fair - see website for details
- 3/4-8 National School Breakfast Week
- 3/8 Jr/Sr High School Multicultural Show 7 pm
- 3/12 North Spring Picture Day
- 3/13-22 South Book Fair - see website for details
- 3/14 End of Third Quarter
- 3/15 Teacher In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL
- 3/18 Teacher In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL
- 3/19 Jr High 3rd Quarter Awards 8:30 am
- 3/20 South Spring Picture Day
- 3/22 Jr/Sr HS Picture Retakes
- 3/22 South Talent Show 6 pm
- 3/22 North Mother-Son Dance 6 pm
- 3/26 HS 3rd Quarter Honor Roll Celebration
- 3/26 North Spring Musical Concert 7 pm
- 4/9 Jr High Owls Classic Track Meet 4 pm
- 4/11 Sr High Owls Classic Track Meet 4 pm
- 4/13 JR/Sr High Art, Education, and Wellness Fair 12 pm
- 4/18 North Art and Education Fair

**Please visit [www.mthcs.org](http://www.mthcs.org) for calendar updates**

## Mt. Healthy City Schools keeping you in the loop

Visit our website often for up-to-date information [www.mthcs.org](http://www.mthcs.org)



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**Join us for the  
Art, Education and Wellness Fair  
Saturday, April 13, 2019  
12 pm-3 pm  
Jr/Sr High School Campus**