

The Senatorial

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Superintendent Stricklett Receives BASA Award

In November Superintendent Jeff Stricklett received the "Exemplary Leadership Award" from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators. BASA is a private, non-profit organization supporting school administrators in Ohio. The association acts as advocates for education, seeking to inspire it's members, developing exemplary school system leaders.

Congratulations Mr. Stricklett!



Mr. Kirk Hamilton, Executive Director of BASA presents Mr. Stricklett the Exemplary Leadership Award.

Westsenators.org-New Website, New Look

New website, new look! In October the district launched a new website, www.westsenators.org. Each building has it's own page where staff, students, parents and community can read about all the latest news and events happening in the district.

Website editors are: Julie Wilkinson and student contributors, High School; Rebecca Stiles, Middle School; Kim Keaton, Elementary School; Danette Colley, District. You may contact the web editors if you have something you would like to publish on the new site.

Ohio Graduation Testing (OGT)

- Ohio Graduation Testing begins in March. Tips to help students.
- Help students relax & not stress over testing.
- Attendance on test day.
- Encourage students to read & listen to directions.
- Plenty of sleep the night before.
- Eat breakfast on test day.
- Encourage students to do his/her best work.



Veterans Day Salute

Students came together for Veterans Day at the high school to honor and salute our nation's veterans. Dr. Patrick Leedom was the guest speaker for the event. A United States Navy Veteran and professor in Education at SSU, Dr. Leedom spoke of America's fight for freedom and independence and shared some of his experiences serving on a submarine during the Korean War.

Chorus's from the high, middle, and elementary performed patriotic songs and the band entertained all with their medley salute.

Coach Chris Rapp and Senator baseball team members visited cemeteries throughout the district placing flags on veteran's graves. Each year they take new flags and replace those that they laid the previous year.

The team brought the old flags back to the elementary where fourth grade students readied them for proper burial. Students and staff held a ceremony where several shared their thoughts about the flag, our country or read poems. Taps were played by Addison Guilliams, Mr. Rapp and Mr. Larry Rice shared experiences and history with the students.



Baseball Team placing flags at gravesites.



Fourth Grade class at the flag burial ceremony.

Fall Sports Awards

Golf: Team 2nd Place SOC; Jordan Tieman, All SOC.

Team Members: Coach Kevin Downey, Aaron Dyer, Cody Finley, Jordan Hileman, Drew Howard, Buster Boggs, Trenton Cole, Jordan Tieman, Marty Knittle, Brad Whit.

Volleyball: Coach Brittany Sessor SOC II Coach of the Year; Madisyn Dillow, 1st team SOC & SOCII Defensive Player of the Year; Terra Butcher & Kayleigh Coleman, 2nd Team SOC.

Girls Soccer SOC II: Lindsey Howard & Emily Taylor, 1st Team SOC; Joy Durant, 2nd Team.

Boys Soccer SOC II: Nathan Bragdon,

1st Team SOC & SOC II Defensive Player of the Year; TJ Hoggard, 1st Team SOC; Chris Dials, 2nd Team SOC.

Jordan Tieman receives recognition award for ALL SOC. Craig Hazelbaker, Board President, Jordan Tieman, Coach Kevin Downey, HS Vice Principal Eric Nichols.



Sensational Senators Marching Band Excellent at State Competition

On November 7, the "Sensational Senators" Marching Band competed at the Ohio Music Education Association state competition in New Brunswick, Ohio, receiving an "Excellent" rating.

"Our show for this marching season was entitled "The Final Bell", music from the Rocky movies. Selections included "Gonna Fly Now", "Vigil", "Training Montage", and "Eye of the Tiger". The band performed at five

regional OMEA band competitions which included our hosted competition at Portsmouth West HS, Teays Valley HS, Valley HS, Dawson-Bryant HS, and Ironton HS. The band worked very hard this season and pushed themselves each week to become better than the previous week. They received a "Superior" rating at the Ironton HS band competition which qualified them to perform at the OMEA State Finals."

"There is a lot of planning and preparation that goes into designing a competitive marching band show. Plans for next season are already being made so that we may have an even higher level of success."

"The Portsmouth West "Sensational Senators" Marching Band would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the program."

Ryan Ervin, Director of Bands



Music in the Air

Portsmouth West choir and thespian groups were very busy this fall performing at numerous events and giving time to charitable causes. The Thespian Troupe #5739 walked door-to-door asking for donations for the annual Food Drive, collecting 872 cans of food for local food pantries.

For Veterans Day, the Advanced Choir performed programs at Tracey Park and SOMC before returning to the high school where all district students attended a VA Day salute to our veterans. High School Choir members stayed very busy throughout December performing twenty concerts at various community venues.

SMOW (Singing Men of West), performed at SSU for the new school president's inauguration. This coming March, the high school Choir will be traveling to Chicago to a Broadway show, do some sightseeing and visit several of Chicago's famous institutions and landmarks.

"Cinderella" is the 2016 musical production and will be held at SSU's Vern Riffe Center for the Arts on April 29, 30 & May 1st. The musical cast and crew will begin extensive rehearsals



The Advanced Choir at Veterans Day Salute

beginning in January. Be sure to mark your calendars and come see what is always an awesome performance!

For news, photos, and upcoming events for district chorus, band, & thespian groups visit westsenators.org

Eureka Math @ greatminds.net

“Washington Nile Local Schools adopted a K-8 Math curriculum that connects math to the real world. This curriculum alignment enables our students to develop a deeper understanding of how numbers, operations of numbers, shapes, and figures are used in their world. Math is a story that progresses over time. Therefore, it is not enough for students to just know how to solve a problem. In today’s world, student’s need to understand why and how math processes works. Students must be able to apply

this knowledge anytime. In addition, Ohio’s State Standards of Mathematics, adopted in 2010, require students to use, understand, and develop concepts using technology. Our students are digital natives living in a world that has become smaller due to technology advancements.”

“The Eureka Math curriculum builds students’ knowledge logically and thoroughly to help them achieve deep understanding. While this approach is unfamiliar to those of us who grew up memorizing mathematical facts and

formulas, it has been tested and proven to be the most successful method in the world.”

“Washington-Nile is working hard to prepare our students for their future!”

Wilma Erwin, Special Services

For parent information including homework helpers, videos, tips and other resources use the following link: <http://greatminds.net/maps/math/home>. Go to support > parent support.

You can also find information at west-senators.org, Special Education..

Talented & Gifted Classes

From the rockin’ 50’s to the fate of the those on the Titanic; from charity food drives to genetics and jurisprudence, the students in Mrs. Lincecum’s Talented and Gifted classes are very busy. TAG students from 3rd-8th grades took a stroll “Through the Decades”, choosing a decade between 1920-2000 to research. They then created a display and a presentation about various events that occurred during the era. Dressed in the style of the decade, students invited parents, students, and staff to the event.

Their next project visited the Titanic.

Each student chose a passenger on board and then found personal and other information about the individual. A boarding pass was created using the information and then given to guests at a presentation the class hosted. As each read their passenger’s story, the guest were able to learn their fate. Students also designed insulated life jackets that were part of the presentation.

The 3rd and 4th grade classes participated in “Operation: Gratitude” in partnership with Compass Community

Health and The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Food was collected from September 11 to Veterans Day, when the food was delivered to local veterans. Students worked throughout the building, making posters and collecting. The elementary brought in about 1300 cans, with Mrs. Heather Howard’s 1st grade topping out at 201 cans. Upcoming projects include: genetics, mock trial and another community service event.



Elementary TAG Kendall Ford, Olivia Kirkpatrick, Emma Sayre and Abigail Hazelbaker. Through the Decades

Middle School TAG Natalie Mershon, Stevie Jo Hayslip, Madison Russell, & Keima Bennett. Through the Decades.



Middle School Service-Learning Class—Making Tomorrow's Leaders

The National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) defines service-learning as: “a philosophy, pedagogy (teaching method), and model for community development that is used as an instructional strategy to meet learning goals and/or content standards.” Founded in 1983, the NYLC strives to “create a more sustainable, and peaceable world with young people, their schools, and their communities through service-learning.”

PWMS students in Ms. Erin Pierce and Ms. Amy Kayser’s Service-Learning class have been very busy this fall leading and participating in a variety of community service projects. Students organized and led a “Just-Dance-A-Thon” event that raised \$5,500. The funds were then donated to assist two West students and their families with medical costs and also the SOMC Compassion Fund for Cancer.

Working with the Salvation Army, the class helped collect over 600 cans of

non-perishable food items for those in need. They also made special Christmas cards for a local child celebrating his last Christmas. In fulfilling a request of a PWES student that had stayed at the Ronald McDonald House, the class is working along with all the district students in collecting aluminum can tabs.

Every day they participate in online community service. Over the holiday season students logged onto the Marie Callendar’s “Comforts from Home” webpage, entered a code, and a helped send holiday gifts to our countries military men and women currently serving. A continuing online program at freerice.com sends food to hungry people around the world. Anyone can participate in the program. Simply go to freerice.com and answer easy questions. For every correct answer, you earn 10 grains of rice for the needy. The website even gives a warning that the game just might make you smarter, so give it a try and

help our students feed the world.

When asked what they like about the class, several students had many great things to say. “I think it is a good thing to help others out. My favorite charitable event this year was the food drive because they really needed the food. Every year we do something different, finding where we see a need.” stated Olivia Holsinger. Marion Phillips added, “This is our second year, we’ve just learned a lot in class. Helping those in need makes you happy and feel good”. Sydney Carter, Mackenzie Boggs, and Andrew Jones all shared the same sentiments of how rewarding and good it feels to know you have really helped someone in need, or done something for our community and school that really makes a difference in peoples lives.

Thank you to Ms. Pierce, Ms. Kayser, and all the students for continuing to work to make our school and community a place where all can learn, give, and lead.

¡Ay, Caramaba! A Trip to Mexico

Mrs. Platzer’s third grade enrichment class explored Mexico. Fun activities engaged students while leaning about language, culture, and cuisine. Frida Kahlo was the featured artist. The Teachers Discovery Traveling art exhibit activities shared facts about Frida’s family, life, and art. Student artwork, banners, and sombreros along with Frida Kahlo’s artwork were shared with everyone, transforming the elementary cafeteria into colorful Old Mexico.



SCOESC Classrooms Accommodate Special Needs Students

The South Central Ohio Educational Service Center (SCOESC) located in New Boston, provides support and services to educators, students, and parents in Scioto and other neighboring counties. Two services provided by the ESC include a preschool intervention program and programs for students diagnosed with multiple disability, MD classrooms. West currently has two MD classes in both the middle and elementary school, one MD class at the high school, and a preschool class at the elementary. These classes are just five of the twenty-three different MD cooperative classrooms supported by the ESC in Scioto County.

Working together teachers and students in the class strive to meet Ex-

tended-Ohio Academic Content Standards. The standards provide that “students with significant cognitive disabilities are provided with multiple ways to learn and demonstrate knowledge” and “are designed to maintain the rigor and high expectations of Ohio’s Learning Standards”. (Ohio Department of Education)

Social skills for life outside the classroom are also a focus. Community-based instruction helps build social, independent living, and employment skills for students. Working together both in the classroom and through participation in school activities and events, students gain important interpersonal skills.

The preschool intervention program serves 3-5 year olds with special needs. Classroom environment considers that a child with special needs is always a child first and provides the same interactive learning principles, activities and opportunities found in non-special needs classrooms. Social skills are also an important aspect of daily class time. Learning respect for oneself and others in our uniqueness, and a foundation of good habits, skills and attitude help develop confidence and self-esteem.

For more information about these and many other services offered by SCOESC visit their website at: <http://www.scoesc.k12.oh.us>.

**“We’re all different
and it’s okay!”**

ESC MD teachers at PWES are Stacey Riber and assistant Kaye Shirey, K-2; Ashley Gilley and assistant Frelina Adams, 3-4. The preschool intervention teacher is Dene Degonzague and assistant Cameron Duncan.

Each one are advocates for special needs children, working both in and out of the classrooms to improve and advance special needs children everywhere. Asked what they liked about their work responses were; ‘Love it’, ‘Love the Kids’, ‘So rewarding everyday’, ‘It was my calling’, ‘The small accomplishments that are so big’, ‘The laughter’!



Preschool students enjoying recess on their playground.



Mrs. Riber’s & Ms. Gilley’s classes say “cheese” for the camera.

Where There's a Will, There's a Way!

Over the past months, students and staff throughout the district came together in giving of time, effort, money, and love for several students and families in need of support during a difficult time for them all. "Where There's a Will, There's a Way", became the district motto in support of Will Lackey, a fourth grader in need of a liver transplant.

Will is the son of Cheryl and Mike Lackey. He was born with Alagille Syndrome, a rare genetic disease occurring in 1 of every 100,000 births, which affects the liver, heart and other organs. In August it was decided he would need a liver transplant and on September 9th he was placed on the transplant list. On October 29th his condition worsened and on the 30th Cincinnati Children's Hospital accepted a liver. After a ten hour surgery, Will received his new liver on the 31st of October. He then had emergency surgery to relieve bleeding in his stomach. Just thirty-two days after his surgery, Will came home!

From the moment Will left for the hospital students and staff began thinking of ways to help support him and his family. Various events and fundraisers were held: Hat day at the elementary; the high school Key Club held a Fall Carnival "Wishes for Will" and had a snowman raffle; middle school service-learning class held a Dance-A-Thon; bracelets and t-shirts were also sold. District students are now collecting aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Will wanted to give back to those that helped him and his family and asked for our help in supporting the foundation.



Will and his parents wish to express their gratitude to our school community. "We can't thank the staff, students, and members of our community enough for all their support, fundraising, thoughts and prayers."

The miracle that saved Will is something each of us have the power to give. Go to donatelifenet.com to find out more about organ donation.

We've missed your smiling face, sense of humor, and kindness Will. You are a shining example of the meaning of perseverance and courage and we can't wait to have you back with us!



Will with Mrs. Keaton on Hat Day!

We Believe! We Believe!

All of the elementary students participated in the Macey's Believe Campaign that benefits the Make a Wish Foundation. Last year PWES was the only school to participate schoolwide. We Believe!



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New Website
westsenators.org

West 2015 Hall of Fame Inductees

Mr. Kenneth Rapp was inducted into the Alumni Hall Fame this past August at the Alumni Banquet. He served the district for 30 years as teacher, coach, principle, helping to develop remedial reading programs in both district and state.

Mr. Paul Farley and Mr. Asa Jewett were the 2015 Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Mr. Farley dedicated forty-eight years to Senator athletics

as player and coach. A 1998 graduate of West, Mr. Jewett was an outstanding athlete on the basketball court. Leading the senators to many victories, setting records and receiving local, state, and national recognition and awards.

For more Hall of Fame and Alumni news and photos visit District > Alumni at: www.westsenators.org

Jordan Hileman Miss West Riverdays



Portsmouth West was very well represented in Riverdays candidate Jordan Hileman. Ms. Hileman placed in the top 5, received the Judges Fitness Award, the People's Choice Award, and the Community Service Award. Her float representing OSCO Industries received Best Overall Float thanks to the hard work of Mr. Ed Engles and many others.

Congratulations Jordan!



Mrs. Riber's class celebrates Christmas with a pajama party, are treated to a "formal" lunch served by their teachers, a movie and a visit from Santa! HO! HO! HO!

Preschool students perform at their Holiday Program. PWES has two preschool classrooms and a head start. For more information about preschool visit our website at: westsenators.org



Dates to Remember

January 15 > No School, Waiver Day
January 18 > No School MLK Day
February 15 > No School President's Day
March 23 > PT Conferences, Early Dismissal
March 24-28 > No School, Spring Break
May 26 > Last Day for Students

Miss Rapp's 1st grade students show off the reindeer shirts they made. All the first graders made reindeer or Christmas tree shirts and wore them for rehearsal and on their field trip.

