

## Wrestlers ranked high in state

In the prestigious Brakemen Report, Maple Heights wrestlers were ranked 10<sup>th</sup> best in the Division I state tournament to be held March 4 through 6. The report predicts defending state champion **Kory Mines** to once again be the state's best at 112 pounds, according to Coach **James Milkovich**.

Other Mustangs cited to place at the tournament include **Fred Robertson, Richard Robertson Jr., Kavin Henry** and **Devin Revels**.

The Mustangs finished runner-up to host Mentor at the recent Lake Erie League Lake Division Duals. Earning first team All-League were **Kory Mines, Kavin Henry, Devin Revels, Almonte' Patrick** and **Aaron Pipkins**. Earning second team honors were **Deshon Johnson, Delorean Stafford, Donell Brown, Richard Robertson Jr., Ra'him Duncan** and **Dontell Kennedy**.

Maple's dual meet mark currently stands at 12-7, and the Mustangs were recently crowned as champions of the Firelands Falcon Invitational. They will host the sectional tournament February 19 and 20 at Wylie Athletic Complex before travelling to Mentor for the district tournament on

February 26 and 27 and the state tournament in Columbus March 4 through 6.

## Boys' basketball off to a great start

With a 10-5 record, the boys' basketball team is off to its best start in years, according to second year coach, **Phil Schmook**.

"Our team has demonstrated an attitude of persistence and determination," says Schmook. "I am impressed with the team's defensive effort and their unselfishness on the court."

Leading the team in scoring and rebounding is **Dom Flewellyn**. Underclassmen **Dawan Cline** and **Arnell Jackson** are second and third leading scorers this season.

## Girls' basketball team in rebuilding year

Maple Heights girls' basketball team is in a rebuilding year, according to Coach **Rickey Watters**. Of the 15 girls on the varsity team, 13 are playing varsity for the first year. In addition, a number of the girls are inexperienced underclassmen.

"We have a very challenging schedule," Watters explains, "but we need to play good teams in order to rebuild the team."

Watters continues, "I really like this team, and these girls have the potential to be great. Our time is coming."



# Community Connection

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# Maple Heights City Schools Community Connection

News for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools

## Dear Community,

I'm so proud of all our students. You will read about some great things happening in our schools in this issue. I am especially pleased that every high school student will be involved in Service Learning, as part of our new small-group advisory program. Our high school teachers and administrators work hard to build strong relationships with students in our Smaller Learning Communities. It is making a real difference in raising student achievement. When our students are out doing Service Learning projects in the community, it is a big bonus for all of us.



After all the snow this winter, I am ready for spring. But I am most excited about seeing even more action on the school construction sites. Things are progressing right on schedule. Thank you again to the community for your support of the 2008 bond issue, which has made this possible.

Our new Maple Education Foundation is awaiting formal approval of its 39-page application for 501 3C tax exempt status. You will be reading more in the next issue about the dedicated folks who are making this happen for our schools. Their "Memories of Maple" DVD is very well done, and I would encourage you to order one and support our new Foundation.

Sincerely,

Charles Keenan

## Construction begins on new middle school; Design stage for high school now complete



Entry to the new high school is located off West Boulevard.

Winter weather hasn't stopped site work on the new Milkovich Middle School. In fact, students at Stafford Elementary can watch construction workers operate earth moving equipment from their classroom windows.

According to **John G. Willi**, Director of Design Research and Principal at Fanning & Howey Architects, "Coming out of the ground takes so much time because we have to stabilize and compact the earth for engineering purposes and prepare for the underground infrastructure."

Concrete footers from the old football stadium also had to be removed. At least 50 percent of demolition materials will be recycled.

All the contracts have been awarded for the middle school, says Willi. "Soon people will see even more activity on the site."

Planning and design for the high school is now complete, Willi says. Fanning & Howey architects are currently preparing construction documents.

Organized around the Smaller Learning Community concept, the high school features classroom groupings for core academics. The cafeteria, gymnasium and offices are located at the front of the building facing West Boulevard. The main visitor entry is what Willi calls "a defined front door." Sidewalks lead to it from the parking lot, and visitors will find it readily identifiable.

Also featured in the high school plans is an interior courtyard, which will serve as an outdoor learning environment, complete with wireless access. This allows every instructional area to have natural light, which is part of the building's "green" design.



## Maple students present at OSBA conference

Three Maple students, along with Superintendent **Charles Keenan** and **Susan Jaroscak**, Director of Instruction and Gifted Education, presented at the November annual Ohio School Boards Association conference.

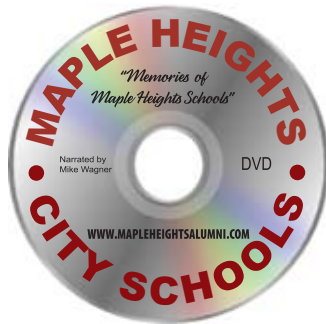
Students talked about their positive experiences in the Maple City Schools gifted program, including learning Spanish in the sixth grade, having the opportunity for ACT preparation and participating in special field trips and scholars programs. Keenan and Jaroscak discussed how they developed a minority student gifted program and why it was so vital to the district's vision.

Senior **Lauren Reaves**, junior **Shirjoma Jacobs** and sixth grader **Cyan Blackwell** told the group how important it was to them to have an adult pay attention to their education.

OSBA attendees were very positive about the presenters. "The students were amazing and inspiring," wrote one. "The student presenters were outstanding! Excellent public speakers—warm and charismatic," said another.

"Obviously a child-centered district," said another attendee. "One of the very few presentations that actually incorporated students. Kudos to the district for their approach to the gifted and for their presentation."

Kennedy Williams and Jezrael Mitchell



## 'Memories of Maple' DVDs for sale; Donation benefits new Foundation

A 65-minute DVD titled "Memories of Maple" is being marketed by the new Maple Education Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of the \$25 DVD will help jumpstart fundraising for the Foundation.

According to Foundation Executive Director **Dale Walter**, the idea for the DVD is a simple one. When the district's five new schools are complete and the old buildings are razed, a piece of Maple Heights' history will be gone, he explains. "Memories of Maple" features photos of each building today with commentary from more than 15 alumni.

In addition, producers **Angelo DeMarco** and **Lori Chick**, who is also a Board of Education member, added scanned photos from yearbooks beginning in 1920 and music from each era.

"Originally, the video was going to be simple," Walter says. "But with the help of Angelo and Lori, it started to grow. It is beautifully produced and has a real historical aspect to it."

Maple alumni, including Mayor **Jeffrey Lansky** and Fire Chief **James Castelucci**, recall their memories on the DVD. Maple Heights teachers **Susan (Fetko) Jaroscak**, **Jamie Milkovich** and **Henry Rish** talk about attending Maple Schools and being inspired to become teachers. Educator **Kristen Hasenohrl** says, "I am who I am today because of what I learned in these walls." Many of the alums display their own school photos and memorabilia.

Physicians **Alan Atienza** and **Carol Cunningham** talk about their favorite teachers. Board of Education member **Bob Dober** recalls his year as editorial page editor of the school paper and antics in the locker room.

Other alumni interviewed include **Leroy Colley**, **Salina DuBose**, **Santo Incorvaia**, **Ellis B. Jones**, **Euvalia E. Jones**, **Timothy Lewicki**, **Albert Melfi**, **Jenny (Fritz) Williams** and **Dale Walter**.

To purchase a DVD, send a check for \$25 made out to Maple Heights Alumni Association to Maple Education Foundation, attention Dale Walter, 5500 Clement Drive, Maple Heights OH 44137. Questions? Call Walter at 216-587-3200, ext. 1084, or e-mail him at [dale.walter@mapleschools.com](mailto:dale.walter@mapleschools.com).

Find more information at [www.mapleheightsalumni.com](http://www.mapleheightsalumni.com).

## Student Council collecting coins for Haiti

When **Lyshaneh Black**, a Rockside third grader in **Cheri Magistrelli's** class, heard about the earthquake in Haiti, she wanted Rockside's Student Council to help. Black helped brainstorm a list of activities that could generate funds and decided collecting coins was the quickest and simplest way to raise money.

Student Council, under the direction of teacher **Lisa Roney**, conducted the fund drive during February. Classroom teachers have also used the opportunity to count coins, create graphs and tables and write story problems—all to support math instruction.

Lyshaneh Black, Jewell Cotton, and Samirah Young





Portraying famous African Americans from left, Imani Johnson as Madam C.J. Walker, Shelby Eggleston as Whoopi Goldberg and Jovon Lewis as Spike Lee.

Celebrating Black History Month from left, Mark Alexander as Benjamin Banneker, Amari Sledge as Harriet Tubman and Nijah Williams as Rosa Parks.

## Celebrating Black History Month

Rockside third graders in **Lisa Schostek's** class celebrated the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month. Each student researched a famous individual and came to school dressed as that character bringing two props that represented important facets of his or her life.

In addition, interviews were conducted with each student who had to answer like the famous person would respond, including mentioning his or her accomplishments.

According to Schostek, "My students did an amazing job of researching, dressing in costume and answering the questions from memory."

## Service learning projects important to community

All Maple Heights High School students will be involved in Service Learning projects during their new small-group advisory period.

"Giving back to the community is what we are trying to teach," explains **Dan Kovalak**, Smaller Learning Communities Coordinator. "Service Learning engages students in community volunteer projects that are also tied to classroom learning," he says.

In order to implement Service Learning, high school administrators modified the school schedule to include a periodic advisory period. Each teacher is assigned to an advisory group of about 15 students who plan and execute their own Service Learning projects. In addition, the teacher regularly checks students' grades and their progress in meeting graduation requirements, as well as assists them in scheduling classes.

"We have taken a large school and broken it down into Smaller Learning Communities," Kovalak says. "Now we are dividing the communities into smaller advisory groups. This is a way to do relationship building."

"Service Learning is an important part of the Smaller Learning Communities we have at the high school," says **Bruce Willingham**, Assistant Superintendent and Personnel. He coordinated a district-wide committee of 15, which put together a proposal.

One advisory group led by teachers **Pam Eason** and **Melissa Jacot** has already focused on the topic of homelessness. Student delivered more than 100 bags of hygiene products for homeless teens at the Haven of Rest in Akron. The group is also making and collecting blankets to donate to the InterAct Cleveland Homeless Stand Down Coalition, which students will attend on March 5.

Another advisory group wants to focus their project on animals. With the help of teacher **Kelly Franzmann**, students are assisting the Geauga County Humane Society by creating centerpieces for its annual fundraiser called "Mardi Paws."

Other advisory groups are fundraising for victims of the earthquake in Haiti, planning programs for Martin Luther King Day celebrations and studying nutrition and obesity.

## Teacher Academy students involved in projects

Students in the Teacher Academy, a career pathway program for those interested in higher education and becoming teachers, are involved in a number of activities, according teacher **Melissa Jacot**.

As part of an educational partnership with Notre Dame College, students can attend a one-week experience where they live in the dorms, attend college classes and receive one college credit. Current students are planning a "Pie in your face" raffle to raise money to offset the costs. Lucky raffle winners are allowed to throw a pie at volunteer teachers and administrators.

As part of a project with Akron Children's Hospital, for the second year students made blankets with education students from Mount Union College. Students also collected over 500 Yoplait pink labels for breast cancer awareness.



Nyree Nevels and Faith Johnson

## Learning about biomes at Rockside Elementary

Second graders at Rockside Elementary conducted research on the computer to learn about the biomes or habitats of the earth, including marine, desert, grassland, forest, tundra and freshwater areas. With the guidance of teacher **Susan Peake**, students collected facts, illustrated posters and put together PowerPoint presentations.

"My students are so proud of their work and were motivated to learn by the incorporation of technology," says Peake.