

Carlisle Connection

.. news from and about the
Carlisle
Local School District



CERA members Sherry Callahan, Becky Bevenger, Kathy Gross, and Pat Stubbs receive an award from SW OSBA president John Pennycuff

CERA Receives Award

The Carlisle Education Recognition Association (CERA) was honored last month by the Southwest Region Ohio School Boards Association as one of the region's Outstanding Volunteer Programs.

CERA, a parent-run organization that has been in existence for more than thirty years, has as its purpose:

- To provide recognition to students in grades 6-12 who have a record of high academic achievement;
- To awaken the community conscience to the vital obligation of recognizing these students and their achievements;
- To foster student interest in academic achievement; and
- To award scholarships to deserving CERA seniors.

CERA has several fundraisers throughout the school year to raise money for scholarships and awards, including raffles at Railroad Days and at the annual CERA Play, but the biggest fundraiser is the Play itself, presented in March by a talented cast of community members, students, and school employees. CERA meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Middle School Cafeteria at 7:00 P.M. New members are always welcome, especially parents of students in grades 6-12.

District Mission Statement:

In partnership with the family and community, the Carlisle Local School District's mission is to focus on the needs of students in everything we do, while providing quality educational experiences in a positive and innovative learning environment.

A Message from the Superintendent:

Two new laws have taken effect this school year that will affect our school district, as well as districts across the state. The first law, commonly referred to as "Jared's Law," was initially proposed by our own State Representative, Tom Raga. That law mandates annual safety inspections of all school buildings in Ohio, to be performed by the Ohio Department of Health. These inspections will be very thorough, requiring an average of 4-6 hours for each building, and will look at not only issues of sanitation, cleanliness, food storage, etc., but also the storage of cleaning chemicals, folding cafeteria tables, and other potentially hazardous items. We expect that our buildings will pass, but we hope to get useful feedback that will help us maintain a safe and healthy environment for students and staff.

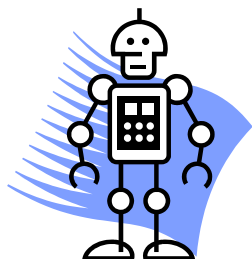
The second law, House Bill 422, changes the requirements for fire drills and tornado drills to include an annual "Safety Drill" (Lockdown Drill). In this first year of implementation, the Safety Drill must be done on or before April 1, and thereafter, on or before December 1. We are required to give 72 hours advance notice to the Carlisle Chief of Police before conducting each Safety Drill. We hope there would never be a need to do an actual "lockdown," but it is important that students and staff know what procedures to follow, "just in case...."

In closing, I would like to send out a big "Congratulations!" to the players and coaches of our seventh grade football team, who finished the season undefeated. Great Job!

Tim McLinden, Superintendent

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5th and 6th Grade Lego Robotics Competition



Students on the 5th and 6th Grade Carlisle Lego Robotics teams have been gearing up for their December 16th First Lego League Robotics Competition. This year's challenge is "Nano-Quest: Exploring Existing Sciences at the Molecular Level". To reach the goals of this challenge, the two teams must research nanotechnology, develop teamwork and project presentations, and complete robotics missions on a course filled with maneuvers and tasks that their robots must complete in a very short amount of time.

The nano world is 100,000 times smaller than the thickness of a single strand of hair. At the nano level,

everything jumps and shakes – even solid things like tabletops.

Nanotechnology is a new scientific frontier that will impact many facets of society, such as medicine, computers, and the environment. The Nano Quest robot game mission models represent just some of the technology and ideas that scientists are thinking about or working on right now. Scientists believe that someday nanotechnology will allow us to cure diseases using devices small enough to travel through the human body. Others believe nanotechnology will allow us to travel into space in an elevator using a system of tiny tubes and centrifugal force. Because of nanotechnology, right now

you can buy things like stain-resistant clothes and bouncier tennis balls. For their projects, the students must design an improvement for the existing nanotechnology, or choose a potential application that faces a challenge and solve it, then share their findings with the community – a hefty challenge for 5th and 6th graders!

Lego Robotics has successfully inspired many future engineers in Carlisle's Gifted Program, thanks to the efforts of volunteer teachers, parents, and other community members who have given countless hours of their energy, time, and expertise to mentor, coach, and build for the students who participate in this program.

School Transportation



The operation of our school's transportation system is a massive undertaking. On each school day, our fleet of buses travels a total of 573 miles while transporting 1240 students. Our two school vans total 249 miles each day transporting 11 students to various special programs. We have 15 regular route buses and 6 spares whose ages are as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
0-5 yrs.	5 buses
6-10 yrs.	4 buses
11-15 yrs.	5 buses
16-20 yrs.	7 buses

We try to replace three buses every two years, and we have allocated \$50,000 per year from our permanent improvement levy to help pay for new buses. Until recently, the state was providing about \$36,000 per year for bus replacement, so we were

able to stay on schedule. (A new bus costs about \$61,000). Unfortunately, the state has now all but eliminated that funding (only \$6,000 per year), so it is becoming more of a challenge to keep up with our replacement schedule. Our goal is to get to the point where all of our buses are always less than 15 years old.

Mike Shumard to Retire



Carlisle Schools' Director of Operations, Mike Shumard, will be retiring at the end of December, after twenty-seven years of service to our school district. A 1974 Carlisle graduate, Mike began working for the school in 1980, following a three-year stint in the Army as a tank turret mechanic. He worked in his first year as a maintenance helper, then for five years as a bus mechanic's helper. He served as head of maintenance for fifteen years, and he has been

Director of Operations since 2001. As he nears retirement, we asked Mike several questions:

Q: What was your biggest challenge as Head of Maintenance?

A: Trying to keep things in a good state of repair with as little cost as possible. We try to fix things ourselves whenever possible. Bringing in sub-contractors is always an expensive proposition. It costs a lot to even have them come and look at something!

Q: How about your biggest challenge as Director of Operations?

A: Maintaining a good relationship between staff, students, and parents.

Q: What has been most rewarding in your years at Carlisle?

A: Carlisle Schools have been good to me – I raised my family and sent my kids to college because of being employed here. I've gained a lot of knowledge and had a chance to work with some great people.

Q: What does the future hold for you?

A: I'm going to miss it a lot, but I'm looking forward to a reduction in stress and the chance to work on some hobbies and personal interests.

Q: Any final comments?

A: As Bob Hope always said, "Thanks for the memories!"

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New Auditorium Sound System

The first use of the newly installed sound system in the Chamberlain Middle School auditorium was put to the test on Thursday, October 26th when the High School Choir, the Girls' Ensemble, and the Middle School Bell choirs held their fall concerts. The sound quality has been greatly enhanced with the addition of the permanent choir microphones that

hang directly above the risers. It is now possible to hear clearly individual as well as group performances on stage without the use of obtrusive stage microphones and stands. The powerful array of three speakers above the stage delivered a clear, crisp and evenly spaced sound that was appreciated by all those

who attended. Many thanks go out the Alden Brown, Intermediate and Chamberlain Middle School PTO's for all their financial help and especially to Bryan Dunkman, who assisted Mr. Warrington greatly in the planning, preview of equipment and vendor selection to see this project through after many years of work and fundraising.

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Carlisle Local Schools

Tim McLinden
Superintendent

Mike Griffith
Assistant Superintendent

Randy Stiver
Treasurer

Mike Shumard
Director of Operations

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.carlisle-local.k12.oh.us



District Goals for 2006-2007

- We will provide a positive, caring, and encouraging educational environment for students and staff that is safe, secure, and embraces diversity.
- We will increase student involvement in decision-making at both building and district levels.
- We will improve student achievement through effective instruction, assessment, and provision/utilization of up-to-date technologies.
- Students, staff, and administrators, family, and community will work together to improve our rating on the State Report Card.
- We will prepare students (K-12) for education/training beyond high school through counseling, awareness opportunities, and revised course offerings.
- We will enhance relationships and positive communication with students, parents, community, businesses, and elected officials.
- We will adopt a facilities master plan for the school district
- We will offer positive, meaningful extra-curricular and co-curricular opportunities for our students.

CARLISLE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Carlisle, Ohio 45005

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**CURRENT RESIDENT
CARLISLE LOCAL SCHOOL PATRON**

CHS Receives National Recognition



In July at the opening session of the 20th Annual High Schools That Work (HSTW) Staff Development Conference, Carlisle High School (CHS) was recognized for its implementation of the HSTW key practices. Based on the 2006 HSTW Student Survey, CHS was ranked as one of the Top 100 Sites out of 1,100 sites nationwide for our

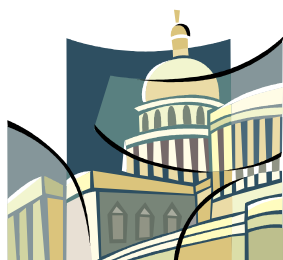
intensive emphasis on the following:

- Quality Extra Help
- Quality Science Instruction
- Perceived Importance of High School

While the leaders of HSTW realize there is still much work to be done in Ohio to reach optimal

student achievement levels, we were commended for our progress in the right direction. The students and staff of CHS are very proud of this accomplishment and will continue to work hard to increase achievement in all areas.

8th Grade Students Visit Nation's Capital



Interested 8th grade students will be traveling to our nation's capital on November 16th through November 19th. Some of the sights our students will be visiting while in Washington D.C. are: the United States Capitol

Building, the Smithsonian Museums, the Lincoln, Marine, WW II, Korean, Vietnam, FDR, and Jefferson Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Archives. The students and chaperones

will also be attending a production of "A Christmas Carol" at Ford's Theater and will tour the Gettysburg Battlefield on the return trip.

News From Carlisle Intermediate School

This fun, educational program is designed to teach children the importance of saving money.

The Community National Bank will once again be sponsoring a "Just for Kids" Savings Club at the Intermediate School this year. Beginning Thurs., Nov. 16 and every third Thursday of the month after that, a teller from the bank will be at the school to accept deposits from the students to place in their own savings accounts. This fun, educational program is designed to teach children the importance of saving money regularly. Each child will receive a savings kit that includes: savings deposit slips, a savings

deposit book, and a bank bag. Special thanks goes to Tabatha Keeton, Office Manager of Community National Bank, for setting up the program.

The Intermediate's Student Council will be sponsoring its first Winter Festival in the Intermediate's gym on Wednesday, December 6. The festival will begin immediately after school so students will not have to go home first, and will end at 5:00 PM. Teacher volunteers and PTO parents will assist with the many games and

activities that will take place during the festival.

Third graders have been studying about fossils and enjoyed looking for fossils while on a field trip to Caesar's Creek. Parents are invited to visit our school and view the students' display in the main hallway about fossilized shark teeth! Representatives from the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery will be coming to the school on Nov. 21 to present a lesson about rocks to the 3rd graders.

(Continued on page 7)

School Income Tax Update

When our school district income tax went into effect in January of 2004, it was projected by the Ohio Department of Taxation to bring in about \$1.5 million per year. However, when we actually started receiving our quarterly payments from the Department of Taxation, the payments were about 33% lower than had been projected. We had included in a district newsletter a document

that could be presented to each taxpayer's employer authorizing payroll deduction of the income tax, but we worried that some people may have forgotten to turn in that letter. At the end of the first year's collection, we were about \$300,000 short of the projected revenue.

Now, two years later, our quarterly tax payments are just about on schedule, but we're still behind by about

\$300,000 from that first year. The State Department of Taxations has notified us that about 17.1% of our residents failed to file a school district income tax return in 2004, and they've mailed out delinquency notices to over 750 taxpayers. As that money (plus interest) begins to flow in, we should be able to get back on budget with our total income tax collections.



News From Chamberlain Middle School

CMS students have the ability to attend "Homework Club" after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the duration of the 2006-2007 school year. With parental permission, any middle school student can attend these FREE homework help sessions at Camp Chautauqua, enjoy a snack, and participate in recreational activities.

Students ride a school bus to Camp Chautauqua and are assisted with their homework by adult volunteers and Carlisle High School student volunteers from 2:45 until approximately 4:15. Students then take part in recreational activities (bowling, putt-putt, etc.) from 4:15 until 5:15. Parents pick students up at this time.

Please encourage your son or daughter to get involved in these helpful

and exciting sessions! Information and parent permission forms are available in the middle school office. We'll see you on Tuesdays and Thursdays!

Chamberlain Middle School would like to thank all of our fall athletes and coaches for representing our school in such a positive manner during the 2006 fall sports season. We would like to congratulate our 7th and 8th grade football and cheerleading participants and coaches for a great season. Our 7th grade team finished with a sparkling 7-0 record, while our 8th grade team finished with an impressive 6-1 record.

Great job Chamberlain Middle School athletes and coaches!

During the course of the year, Mr. Milner will be

recognizing and rewarding students who participate in a random act of kindness while at school. Teachers and other school personnel alert Mr. Milner when they observe a Chamberlain Middle School student doing something nice for someone else. In the months of September and October, eleven students' names have been turned in to Mr. Milner. In November, Mr. Milner will provide lunch and other prizes for these deserving students. The students are: Molly Miller (7th), Michael Kruse (7th), Jason Couch (8th), Katie Young (8th), Tyler Barton (6th), Sara Morris (7th), Alvin Zheng (7th), Eli Johnson (6th), William Printup (6th), Malcolm Smith (6th), and Elizabeth Reynolds (7th).

Students: Thanks for taking the time to be nice to someone else!

CMS students have the ability to attend "Homework Club" after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the duration of the 2006-2007 school year.

A Message From the Treasurer:

Realizing it's been a while since we talked, I thought it would be a good idea for me to take a few minutes and update you on our district's financial position. At our last meeting, the Board of Education approved our five-year forecast for school years 2007 through 2011. During the discussion of that forecast, I highlighted three key sources of revenues; real estate taxes, school income taxes and state funding, and the effect each is having on our financial position. Real estate taxes, the taxes we pay on our homes, has generated pretty much what we anticipated and will continue to increase proportionately to the new homes being built in our district. School income taxes, while lagging behind in the early stages,

is now generating fairly close to what we estimated (see the article on page 5). Like property taxes, we expect to see modest increases in this source of revenue due primarily to inflationary growth. State funding, or the lack of it, is a cause for concern. Our basic aid funding (60% of our total revenues) has been at the same level for the last three years. This is primarily due to changes in the funding formula as well as little to no growth in our student enrollment. This flat funding has placed us in a very precarious financial position. We have responded to this by "tightening our belt" in the way we do business. We have made several changes that have resulted in cost savings to the district and we will continue to pay close

attention in everything we do when it comes to spending taxpayers dollars. This June we will have a better idea what our financial future will look like. The state legislature will adopt their biennial budget, which will determine what our state funding will be for school years 2008 and 2009. At that time, we may have to make some very important decisions regarding the financial future of our district. Working with the Board of Education and the district's Financial Advisory Committee, we will continue to monitor this closely and do everything we can to keep everyone well informed of this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Randy S. Stiver, Treasurer



Student Projects in High School Psychology Class

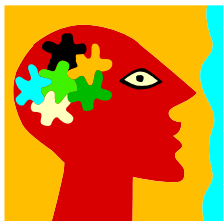


Taylor Wiggins and Adam DePew present their project to the class

Kelly Crowe's Psychology classes have been working hard on research design. Once they finished their unit on research, it was their turn

to conduct research of their own. With a partner, they came up with a question that they wanted to research. They then had to formulate a hypothesis and follow all steps of the Scientific Method. They had to research their topic and design a study. They then had to conduct their research using their High School peers as subjects. Once data was collected, they had to report their findings to the class with a PowerPoint presentation.

This engaged the students in higher-level thinking. They chose very impressive topics such as short-term memory, pattern attractiveness, and the Stroop Effect, which deals with confusion about colors. The students worked very hard and as a result, had a great learning experience.



Curriculum Corner

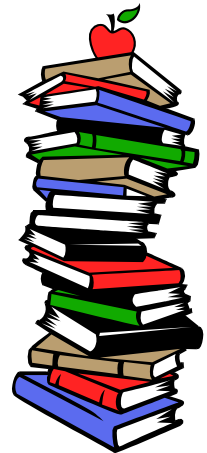
Technology: At the Carlisle Intermediate School, more technology has been scheduled into the days of our fourth and fifth graders. The students are developing computer keyboarding skills by working with the "Type to Learn" program. We are also utilizing the Turbo Math computer program, which is designed to help strengthen our students' numeracy skills.

Parent Surveys: During parent/teacher

conferences and other school related events, our parents will be asked to complete informational surveys that focus on how well our schools are doing in a number of areas. Please participate in these important surveys. The information we receive from them will greatly impact our decisions as we plan the direction of our school district.

QIA: QIA stands for Question in Answer. It is very important for students to be able to express

themselves using the written word. QIA is a district wide initiative that is directly focused on helping our students organize their thoughts when answering all types of essay questions. Simply put, it means that students include a re-statement of the question as part of their answer. This technique helps insure that students are actually answering the question that has been asked, which is an essential component of getting the right answer!



Firefighters Visit Alden Brown Elementary School

The Carlisle Fire Department visited the students at Alden Brown Elementary during Fire Prevention Week – October 9 – 13. Each classroom was treated to a presentation where students learned about fire

safety habits and fire prevention. The following day the fire fighters brought the Fire Engine to the school for the students to see. Each student was able to control the hose and spray down cones in the yard. The fire fighters

were also treated to a pizza lunch with the students. The staff and students at Alden Brown Elementary would like to thank the Carlisle Fire Department for taking the time to visit and work with us!



News From Carlisle Intermediate School (continued)

The 4th and 5th graders have already been in a festive mood this month. On Nov. 1st, the 4th grade classes held a Math Fall Festival that included lessons in estimation, measuring, area, and perimeter while using pumpkins and candy bars. They also practiced their symmetry skills by

making fall leaves, created football glyphs, and used the concepts of mean, median, and mode to locate landmarks.

Just in time for basketball season, new adjustable backboards and goals have been installed in the Intermediate School's gym. Students will now be

able to shoot baskets at goals that will be more appropriate for their age level. Special thanks to the boys and girls Hoops Basketball Program which funded most of the expense to purchase and install the equipment.

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