



Community Connection

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Winter Sports Season Review



Girls' Basketball

The girls basketball team ended its season with a tough sectional game; and a record of 10-13 overall and 7-3 in the Lake Erie League, placing second. They played a tough out of league schedule and proved that they have the ability to play with any team. They had big wins this season over Richmond Hts. and Bedford. Only graduating two seniors; the girls look to come out next year with a great season. Key players returning next year are: **Ammaarah Williams, Ariana Gray, Taylor Brown, Mia Richardson** and **Brandi Boddy**. The coaches are very proud of the girls' efforts.

Boys' Basketball

The Boys Basketball team finished its season with a record of 13-8 under first year **Coach Eric Schmidt**. This year's team was young, but had great potential; losing a few super close games and reaching the District semi-finals for the third straight year. The team closed its season against John Marshall, scoring 101 point; which tied the school record. The team was led by seniors **Lawrence "Big L" Sumbry, Xavier Foster**, Juniors **Tyree Harris, Javontae Richardson**, and sophomores **Alfonse Hale, Deshawn Garner, Dashon Palmer** and **Marcus Kimmie**. Throughout the season the team demonstrated its ability to play together and play smart.

Wrestling

The wrestling team captured its **5th consecutive Lake Erie League Championship** and **43rd overall conference title since 1954**. The Mustangs tallied 223 points to top runner-up Lorain, Cleveland Hts, Bedford, Warrensville Hts., and Shaw.

Andre Stowers captured the 138 lbs. championship to become only the second Mustang to win four conference titles. He equaled the feat set by **Mike DiDomenico** (1957-60). Other Maple champs were **Giovanni Rasheed** (126 lbs), **Antoine Holloway** (132 lbs), **Skyler Muscenti** (145 lbs), **Trevon Atkinson** (195 lbs) and **Justice Cain** (220 lbs). **Justin Primous** (120 lbs) and **Theron Williams** (160 lbs.) tacked on runner-up finishes with **Dwayne Eggleton** (106 lbs.), **Armani Rasheed** (113 lbs.), **Shamar Simmons** (182 lbs.) and **Marteino Johnson** (285 lbs.) finishing third in their respective weight classes. **Trevon Ross** (152 lbs.) finished fourth, and **Jaimz Sowell** (170 lbs.) was fifth.

Coach Jamie Milkovich's Mustangs finished the dual meet season with an outstanding 19-3 record and were champions of the Lutheran West Super Quad, Maroon & White Duals, Fireland's Jim Solomon Memorial Tournament and the Euclid Duals.

Maple Heights City Schools Community Connection



News for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools

A Message From the Superintendent



I am so proud of all of our students. They are doing extraordinary things every day and we are living out our vision to prepare students for a lifetime of success. I am pleased with their individual and group accomplishments. This year we have seen a record number of students participate in biomedical and healthcare internships, recognized for both academic and athletic competitions at the state, regional, . . . and now global levels. It is truly amazing to walk around our schools to see the positive climate and hard work going on in our classrooms. Our staff works hard with expectations of excellence to educate our students using quality, customized, engaging learning experiences. You will read about some great things happening in our school this issue.

As we approach the end of the year, it will be a very eventful time for our students and staff. The following is just a few of the upcoming activities: Band and choir concerts, awards and recognition programs, Top 20 Scholar's Banquet, Field Day, Kindergarten Tea and Prom. As you can see, we have a busy, yet exciting time ahead. I am proud of the staff and I am grateful to our parents and community for their cooperation and support in keeping our schools strong.

Dr. Charles T. Kennan

Milkovich Students Participate in Healthcare+ Pathways® Internship at Cleveland Clinic

Sixteen 8th graders from **Milkovich Middle School** were chosen to participate in the **Healthcare+ Pathways® Internship Program** at the **Cleveland Clinic**. These students will spend two weeks during the summer of 2016 working with healthcare and community professionals at the Clinic. Students were chosen based on grades, written essays and an interview.



Front: Destiny Jones, Amira Goodson, Ariana Rasheed, Cheyanne Turner, Amirah Pugh. Row 2: Kaylah Hill, Tiana Greene, Briari Robinson, Dharee Hall, Nyree Nevels. Row 3: Khyra Thomas, Ms. Anetra Howard, Melvin Carter. Back: Michael Shows, Ms. Rae Smedley, Jocellus Brown, Quentin Richardson. Not pictured: Wm Johnson

Healthcare+ Pathways® is a paid **Cleveland Clinic Internship Program** for rising high school freshmen. Designed to increase the participation of under-represented groups within the biomedical and health sciences, this 2-week program provides unique career exploration opportunities for students. Students will learn from world-renowned healthcare and community professionals to develop the skill sets needed to think critically, problem-solve, communicate, conduct investigative research, and challenge their own learning to compete in a global world.

Special thanks to 8th grade science teacher **Anetra Howard** for overseeing the program. Congratulations to our Maple student interns!



Kela McPherson, Ta'shiya Wells, Matt Polley, Maliyah Anderson, Tyra Glenn, Michael Whitt

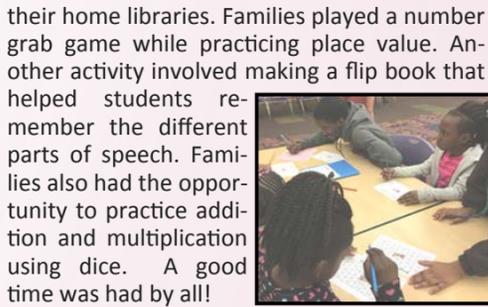
Obama Students Win Big at Destination Imagination

Barack Obama Elementary sent 3 teams of 6 students each to the **Annual Destination Imagination** competition this year at Beechwood High School. The students were involved in a team improvisational competition against other schools in Northeast Ohio. Obama Schools' **"The Maple Improv Squad"** placed first in the *Close Encounters Improvisational* category. Due to their outstanding performance, they earned the right to compete in the state championship in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Coached by teachers **Denise Keller, Tawanna Hamm** and advisor **Rae Smedley**, the 5th grade team won the state competition on April 16, and qualify to go to Tennessee for the **global competition** Memorial Day weekend.

According to **Principal Matthew Bryan**, "this activity is a reflection of the higher order thinking skills that are developed and refined in the classroom." The students needed to show quick thinking and creativity in order to impress upon the judges that they were the most talented group to make a showing at the event. Trophies from the last two seasons are on display in the Barack Obama Main Office.

JFK Hosts Academic Curriculum Night

John F. Kennedy School families celebrated learning, family, and fun during its **Academic Curriculum Night**. Families had a blast playing language arts BINGO. Some even won new books to add to their home libraries. Families played a number grab game while practicing place value. Another activity involved making a flip book that helped students remember the different parts of speech. Families also had the opportunity to practice addition and multiplication using dice. A good time was had by all!



Insurance Committee Works to Save Dollars

Maple Heights City Schools has a **Health Insurance Committee** comprised of members of administration, and both teachers and support staff unions. The Committee meets 4 to 5 times per year and is dedicated to identifying and implementing strategies to help reduce costs associated with the district's health plan.

One such strategy is educating employees and members on ways to reduce health care costs that not only impact the district health plan, but also reduce their own out-of-pocket costs. For example, Medical Mutual (our district's health plan administrator) has an online tool called "My Care Compare" which all MMO members can access. The tool allows members to research and compare medical providers in cost and quality for many non-emergency medical services. For example, an MRI may cost \$2,000+ at a hospital facility, but as low as \$400 at a free-standing imaging facility. With this knowledge, a member can choose the lower cost facility with the same quality of imaging...in this example, both the member and the plan will save substantially!

Members and the district health plan can save hundreds and thousands of dollars by being educated and thoughtful consumers of health care. The district, its Health Insurance Committee and employees are committed to the maintaining a cost effective health plan.

Pathfinders 2016!!

Recipients Recognized for Creating Path of Success

Maple Heights City Schools held its **12th Annual Pathfinders' Assembly**. The Pathfinders' assembly is the culmination of Black History Month activities and recognizes individuals who have been trailblazers to success in five different areas: the arts & science, citizenship/government, business, education, and humanitarianism. Individuals are recognized for finding or creating a path of success that our students can follow – thus the name Pathfinders. In addition to recognizing our honorees, the assembly serves to inspire our students to achieve goals they set for themselves throughout their lives.

Meet the Pathfinders

Our **Arts & Science Recipient** is a former Maple Heights Mustang finding success in the media business. **Jade Novah, formerly known as Lindsay Fields**, is a multi-talented singer, actress, and Youtube sensation with over 18 million views of her covers, skits, and original music. Her videos have landed her features with Rolling Stone, Ebony, and Vibe Magazines. Using her entertainment skills, Novah has toured as a vocalist and understudy with Tyler Perry's Production of "Madae's Big Happy Family", and was invited to sing background vocals on Missy Elliot's Album, "This Is Not A Test."



To compliment her success, in 2013, Novah was the **winner of the Grammy Emerging Artist Competition**, which allowed her the opportunity to headline The Grammy Social Media Summit. She's been a vocalist for major artists including, *Rihanna, Beyonce, Eminem, Jessie J.*, and the cast of *Fox's Hit Show, "Empire."*



Business Award Recipient, Arielle Love is a 2011 Graduate of Maple Heights High School. An academic and athletic standout while at Maple Heights, Ms. Love carried on her winning ways through her college career at Duquesne University.

A team captain of the Duquesne volleyball team, Love was an All-American and an **NCAA Woman of the Year Finalist**. Her achievements however, were not limited to the court. Through her college courses, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a concentration in sports marketing, and a Masters of Business Administration with a focus on sustainability.

Love's knowledge and skills in sports marketing has opened many doors in the sports field. She has had the opportunity to work as a camp coordinator for All-American Volleyball Camps, a marketing and promotions intern for Duquesne Athletics, and a community relations intern for The Pittsburgh Pirates. These experiences have led to her current position as Business Development Coordinator for Learfield Sports in Pittsburgh.



This year's **Citizenship & Government Award Recipient** is **Annette M. Blackwell**. Blackwell, the current Mayor, is the first African-American and female mayor of the City of Maple Heights. As an 18-year resident, Mayor Blackwell's campaign slogan, "innovative, invested, involved" accurately describes her life in Maple Heights. In 2011, she was appointed to the Maple Heights Charter Review Committee and began to serve as an instructor for the Maple Heights City Schools' *Parent Academy Program*. In 2012, she served as the chairperson of the successful Maple Heights City Schools renewal levy. In 2014, Blackwell and her husband opened "First Place Event and Multi-Purpose Center" in Maple Heights.

Mayor Blackwell has an associates degree from Indiana Wesleyan University in business principles and leadership and is completing a bachelor's degree at Ursuline

College in communications, marketing, and public relations. Prior to becoming mayor she was a business professional for 35 years, and spent the last 15 years working for some of the largest firms in the country as a commercial property tax analyst. In addition, Blackwell serves as a deaconess at *Philemon Community Baptist Church* and is married to Deacon Alonzo Blackwell. She is a mother of two sons, Duane and Devin Nelson, both Maple graduates, and a daughter, **Cyan**, that will be graduating this year.

The 2016 **Education Award Recipient** has dedicated herself to helping Maple Heights students, in and out of the classroom for the last 10 years and is a familiar face to many of our students and families. **Zelina Pames** is the **Education Award recipient**.



Mrs. Pames began her educational career by earning a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Ursuline College. After 7 years in the classroom, Mrs. Pames Joined Maple Heights Schools in 2005, where she has served as both assistant principal and principal of the former **Dunham Elementary**. Upon the closing of Dunham, Mrs. Pames continued as **Principal first at the former Rockside School and then John F. Kennedy Elementary**. Her passion for education leads her to provide a joyful, rigorous, and safe learning environment for all students.

In addition to her work as Principal, Mrs. Pames is the chairperson of Ascend, a youth enrichment program for high school students. She keeps busy by pursuing an Educational Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Liberty University; and through her membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Next to God, Mrs. Pames' family comes first. She, and her Husband, Mark Sr., have 4 children and 2 grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and playing board games with her family.



This year's **Humanitarian Award Recipient** is a 2007 graduate of Maple Heights High School. During his years at Maple, **Brandon Simmons** was known for his excellence in our marketing program. A former DECA state champion, Mr. Simmons also served as the Northeast Vice President of Ohio DECA.

After high school, Mr. Simmons attended Cleveland State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in digital media. This led to his current position as a **multimedia journalist** at **WKYC-TV**, where he has worked for five years. In his job at WKYC, Mr. Simmons is a familiar face on the news. He is responsible for shooting, writing, editing, and then reporting the daily news for newscasts. However, his experiences have also included database management for election coverage and school closing systems, videographer, and on-site reporting of the 2012 Republican and Democratic Conventions.

Outside of work, Simmons is the audio/visual technician at Mt. Zion Church and is currently pursuing a graduate degree at Kent State University. And if that doesn't keep him busy enough; he and his wife are the parents of a 4-year old daughter.

Partnership Leads to Food Service Dept. Improvements

Maple Heights City Schools recently contracted with **Pisanick Partners, LLC** to assist with improving the district's food service operations. **Pisanick Partners** are child nutrition specialists with decades of experience. As winners of the Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge, they have refined approaches to cycle menu creation, staff training and development, and strategy implementation that not only result in nutritional excellence, but also leads to financial success in K-12 environments.

Within a short period of time, the district's Food Service Department and Pisanick Partners, have managed to create new breakfast and lunch menus that provide a variety of healthy meals. This partnership has also lead to the development of easier ordering procedures, additional professional development, and use of the **My School Menus online tool** (www.myschoolmenus.com). This website is the new home for our school menus. In addition to seeing what is served each school day, users can access nutrition facts, manipulate nutrient calculators, use the allergen filtering system, download or print menus and more. Many of these features are available in the palm of your hand through an app. Simply search for 'My School Menus' in your app store.

AppleConnectED JFK Teacher Rollout

JFK School had its **Apple Roll-out** in March. Each teacher received a MacBook Air and an Ipad to use. Support staff from local Apple stores attended to assist teachers with the new equipment; helping with the basic set up and troubleshooting. In addition, teachers were assisted in classrooms with setting up Air Drop on classroom Eno boards. This was a very exciting day for everyone involved! The teachers are enthusiastic and looking forward to this great opportunity of hope!

