



Community Connection

Maple Heights Board of Education
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Winter Sports Season Review



Girls' Basketball

The Maple Heights **Lady Mustangs Basketball** team is 15-7 and have won the **Lake Erie League** for the first time in 7 years. The girls have knocked off two top teams in the State and have compiled a great regular season record which earned the team a spot in the playoffs. The team's seven seniors have come a long way both in the classroom and on the court, and have shown the younger girls the path to success. Players **A-riana Gray**, **Ammaarah Williams**, and **Taylor Brown** lead the team, with all other girls contributing significantly to its success.

Boys' Basketball

The **Boys Basketball** team has had one of the best seasons in Maple Heights history. The team was ranked in the Top 10 in NE Ohio for the first time ever. Currently, its records is 16-5 and are in 2nd place in the LEL Conference. They beat their rivals Cleveland Heights twice who were ranked #2 in NE Ohio. With the playoffs soon approaching, the team is looking to make a historic run. They have the #2 seed in the Solon District and are hoping to win the District title for the first time since 1952. The team is lead by seniors **Tyree Harris**, **Daray Menefield**, **Mylan Gilmore**, and juniors **Alfonse Hale**, **Marcus Kimmie**, and **Deshawn Garner**. The team looks forward to the community's continued support, as they look to make a playoff run. **Go Mustangs!**

Wrestling

The **Wrestling Team** finished the dual meet portion of its season with an outstanding 13-1 record which included an appearance in the State Regional Semi-finals. The Mustangs also captured their sixth consecutive **Lake Erie League (LEL) Title** and 43rd overall championship in both the old Greater Cleveland Conference and Lake Erie League since 1954. Other season highlights included finishing runner-up in the first annual Maple Heights Holiday Tournament and a championship in the Orange High School Audrey Genovese Memorial Tournament. Winning individual LEL titles for the Mustangs were **Giovanni Rasheed**, **Antoine Holloway** and **Skyler Muscenti**. Finishing runner-up in their respective weight classes at the LEL Tournament were **Justin Bencie**, **Cahmaal Walker**, **Justin Primous**, **Dwayne Eggleton**, **Theron Williams**, **Christian Merritt** and **Tysean Weatherspoon**.

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 our students. They are doing amazing things everyday as we live out our vision of preparing students for a lifetime of success. I am pleased with their individual and group accomplishments. This year we have been busy delivering customized learning for students through the Schlechty Framework, improving our school climate through positive behavior and no nonsense nurturing, and redesigning our high school to expand the college and career readiness opportunities. It is truly amazing to walk around our schools to see the positive culture and engaging work going on in our classrooms. Our staff works hard with expectations of excellence to educate our students using high quality learning experiences. In this issue, you will read about some great things happening in our district. We recently celebrated our 13th Pathfinders Award ceremony highlighting individuals that serve as mentors and examples for our students. Several High School seniors announced acceptance to multiple college offers and how we help our families through the Parent Literacy Institute and pre-school learning activities, our students are enriched by many opportunities to stretch and grow academically and socially. As we continue to grow and progress together, we certainly thank you for your role and continued support in helping all children succeed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles T. Keenan
Superintendent

Keep Mustang Pride Going Renewal Levy on May 2nd Ballot

At the December 5, 2016 meeting, the Maple Heights Board of Education voted unanimously to place a ten-year operating levy renewal on the May 2, 2017 ballot. The current levy is set to expire at the end of 2017. The purpose of this communication is to explain the Board's action and to inform voters.

This operating levy is designed to preserve our community's state-of-the-art classrooms and facilities, increased efforts to customize learning for all students, championship extra-curricular activities, and our work to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and leaders.

We appreciate the community's continued support and we work hard every day to accomplish our goals of educating our students, through expectations of excellence, to prepare them for a lifetime of success while maintaining solid fiscal stewardship. Following is some background information that you may find helpful.

- ◆ This is not a new tax.
- ◆ This levy is to renew a levy passed in 2012, which expires at the end of the 2017. The levy is for the same amount of money as before, which is an annual amount of \$6,708,732.
- ◆ This levy is responsible for 15.25% of the school district's operational funds.
- ◆ The money from this levy allows for the continuation of operating funds for educational opportunities, salaries and benefits, utilities, repairs and maintenance of buildings and buses, instructional supplies and equipment.

The community's continued support of our schools has led to greater opportunities for student learning and expanded options to prepare them for a lifetime of success.

To learn more about the May 2nd levy, you may visit the info tab of the school district web site, www.mapleschools.com.



The 2017 Pathfinders

Recipients Recognized for Creating Path of Success

The Maple Heights City School District held its 13th 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: 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 as a highly accomplished and nationally recognized physician. From his medical practice in San Diego, California, **Dr. Munish Batra** helps others physically and emotionally heal after devastating trauma. With specialties in plastic and reconstructive surgery, craniofacial trauma, and burn reconstruction, Dr. Batra repairs the physical damage done by accidents and disease.

Earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the Ohio State University and his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Batra is not only a skilled physician, he is also an active educator in the medical community. Having researched and authored dozens of scientific papers and presentations, Dr. Batra shares his expertise with others to improve the field of reconstructive surgery.

These accomplishments have led to features in the Los Angeles Times and on the Oprah Winfrey show, as well as, has earned him "top doctor" awards from the San Diego County Medical Society.

In his free time, Dr. Batra instructs for the police athletic league boxing club, practices Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and participates in the Big Brothers program.



The Pathfinder Award for Business recognizes individuals who stand out in the world of finance and commerce. The **Business Award Recipient, Ms. Brittany Mayti**, is a former Maple Heights graduate who has taken her education and turned it into a success and varied career.

After leaving Maple Heights High School, this former Mustang continued her education at the university level. Ms. Mayti first earned her Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and Management from Kent State University and followed that with a Masters in Business Administration from St. Leo University.



Her focus on marketing has led to rich and varied experiences in marketing and management. She has held such titles as business manager, production manager, film producer, and fraud analyst. In her current position, Ms. Mayti is responsible for overseeing the advertising and marketing for Fairfield Residential.

The Humanitarian Award is given to individuals who have made unique contributions to improving the lives of others. Humanitarians are those who put the needs of the community at the forefront of their lives' work. This year's **Humanitarian Award** winner is Maple Heights Board of Education Member, **Mr. Michael White**.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, and one of six siblings, Mr. White moved to the Cleveland area as a young child. Although he graduated from John Hay High School in Cleveland, he has been a long-time resident of Maple Heights.



Elected to the Maple Heights Board of Education in 2004, Mr. White's role as board member charges him with the responsibility of making the critical academic and financial decisions necessary to ensure the children of Maple Heights receive a first-class educational opportunity. During his more than a decade serving on the Board, the Maple Heights School District has provided the children of the community with the educational tools necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The **Citizenship and Government Award** recognizes members of the Maple Heights community for their contributions to government, military, and the public service sectors. This year's award recipient is **Mr. Ricky Watters**.

A graduate of Cleveland's East High School, Mr. Watters attended Bowling Green State University where he played football and was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. In addition to earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology from Cleveland State University, Mr. Watters is also a graduate of the Cleveland Heights Police Academy.

He has used his law enforcement training as a special police officer for the Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority and as a security officer for Maple Heights High School and Milkovich Middle School. However, Mr. Watters is better known to the student body and the Cleveland Area community as a dynamic teacher. He is an instructor of Criminology and Law Enforcement at both MHHS and at Bryant and Stratton College. In addition, he is an NRA weapons training and range safety instructor and a commander for the Ohio Attorney General peace officer private security training.

In his role at Maple Heights High School, Mr. Watters is a former football and girls basketball coach, and is the current head track and field coach.



The **Education Award Recipient** has dedicated herself to helping Maple Heights students, in and out of the classroom and is a familiar face to many of our students and families. A long-time Milkovich Middle School math teacher, **Ms. Maria Rodgers** is the Education Award Recipient.

Having earned her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Masters in Administration from the University of Akron, Ms. Rodgers has dedicated herself to bettering the lives of the children of Maple Heights.

In addition to creating an engaging and challenging classroom for her students, Ms. Rodgers has established herself as a teacher leader for the Maple Heights School District. She serves the district on the math professional learning community and the Schelchty Teacher Leadership Team. A no nonsense nurturing coach, she has been recognized for her leadership as a three time nominee for the Martha Holden Jennings Award and the 2008 Office-Maxx Teacher of the Year award.

Extra-curricularly, she has served as a student council advisor and as the team manager for the Milkovich Destination Imagination Team. Additionally, she has also volunteered in the community as a life skills coach for adults and children at Access, a facility providing services to battered women. And if all of that doesn't keep her busy enough, she and husband, Lance are proud parents of daughters, Regina and Jaida.



Seniors Accepted to Prestigious Universities

Seniors Adonis Pugh and **Kayla Thompson** have both been accepted to prestigious universities. Adonis applied to and has been accepted to multiple universities and has chosen to attend **Stanford University**. Stanford has the lowest acceptance rate in the country—4%. Kayla did the same and has chosen to attend **Howard University**, a historically black university with a prestigious reputation. Both students have run track and cross country and been involved in student government throughout high school. These students and their acceptance to prestigious universities are evidence we are supporting our district's commitment to college and career readiness.

Senior Gains Top Track & Field Honors

Senior Ronald Bright finished first in the high jump at the Youngstown State University High School Indoor Track Meet on January 7, 2017. He jumped 6'4" which is currently the second highest in the State and was a personal record for Ronald. Ronald uses coaching and instruction as a tool to help him master and improve his skills. Using these techniques, Ronald excels both in the classroom and on the track. This was an invitation only event to top track and field athletes in Ohio.

Congratulations Adonis, Kayla & Ronald!

Parent Literacy Institute

The first grade teachers at **Abraham Lincoln School** facilitated a **Parent Literacy Institute**. The Institute was a 3-week course designed to provide parents with hands-on workshops and experiences that would assist the parent with helping their child learn at home. Several instructional strategies were modeled by the teachers based on the work of Dr. Timothy Rasinski. The parents then had the opportunity during the Institute to practice the strategy with their child. The workshop included Make It/Take It sessions where the parent and child created resources to use at home. The parents were also provided with books, school supplies and other materials that would allow them to continue working with their child at home.



Pre-K Family STEM Night

The preschool teachers are starting early with a focus on 21 Century Skills. 21st Century skills include creativity, critical-thinking, collaboration and communication. These skills were a focus at the two Pre-k Family STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) Nights hosted by the preschool team. Each family had the opportunity to practice 21st Century skills as they made play dough. The students practiced measuring and following a recipe. They then used the play dough to create various objects. The families then listened to a story to prepare for using two-dimensional shapes. Students worked on identifying shapes and practiced placing them together to recreate the characters in the book. It was a great experience for the entire family.

