



FOCUS on Mad River Local Schools

BETTER SCHOOLS - BETTER CITIZENS

Volume 20, Number 3
Spring 2010

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MAD RIVER LOCAL SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Mad River Local Schools, a district committed to excellence, is to provide quality educational programs to ensure the development of knowledgeable, productive, responsible citizens able to adapt to a changing society.

Amy Holbrook Named 2010 Mad River Teacher of the Year

Amy Holbrook, an eighth grade social studies teacher at Mad River Middle School, has been named as the 2010 Mad River Local Schools Teacher of the Year. Amy was nominated by her peers at MRMS and chosen by a district committee of teachers and administrators. Amy will be the district applicant for the Ohio Teacher of the Year Award.

Holbrook, a Mad River teacher for 10 years, is a co-lead teacher, clinical educator for University of Dayton interns, and volunteer with the Greene County Humane Society. Amy is also a second-generation Mad River educator. Her father, Ron Holbrook retired in 2005 as the principal of Spinning Hills.



Mad River Teacher of the Year Amy Holbrook poses with two of her social studies students.

And like her father, Amy is considered a mentor for many of the people she works

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Casting the Future

District Looks Ahead Despite Gloomy Financial Forecast

Like many states across the country, Ohio is facing unprecedented times in school finances. Here in Mad River, we are not exempt from these fiscal crunches. In recent months, administrative staff and the Board of Education have been looking ahead and into the future of the district.

While Mad River continues to be good stewards of our tax payers' money, we are working to make sure our financial forecast remains effective and prudent. Thanks to conservative spending, the district's financial forecast is safe; however, several factors are forcing us to looking into the possibility of budget

cuts. These factors include projections that the new state school funding formula passed under House Bill No. 1 will have a detrimental effect on the district with a possible loss of millions of dollars in funding; the elimination of revenue from tangible property taxes, for a projected loss of \$1 million. State money, which accounts for 80.7 percent of the district's general funding, has been declining. Add that to flat property tax revenue, increasing medical costs and the phasing out of the tangible personal property tax and we have a gloomy financial forecast.

The Mad River School District will

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A LETTER FROM MIKE EAGLOWSKI,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Community,

I recently attended the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools Spring Conference in Washington D.C. While most of the legislative focus is on health care and unemployment, education is still an important topic. Below are the highlights of the conference, including President Obama's plan for education.

Race to the Top Grant

Ohio was selected as one of 15 finalists to receive Race To The Top funds. Race To The Top is a federal grant that focuses on school reform and improving student achievement. The Ohio Department of Education wrote the grant application. They are now preparing for the final round. If awarded the grant, Ohio would receive approximately \$400 million. \$200 million would remain with ODE. The winners will be announced in April.

President Obama's FY 2011 Budget Proposal and Education Plan

There is anticipation that Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will occur this year. It would include replacing No Child Left behind. NCLB is the very controversial and underfunded school reform plan implemented by the Bush administration.

President Obama's Education plan is about reform. The United States has a 27% high school dropout rate. We are currently 10th worldwide in terms of students completing college. By 2016, 30 of the fastest growing occupations will require a Bachelor's degree.

By 2020, the President wants the U.S. to be first in producing college graduates. His goals are to improve student achievement, increase high school graduation rates, increase college enrollment, and improve college access & affordability.

President Obama plans to focus on teacher effectiveness and develop school building leadership. He wants to ensure equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals. Much will involve student data. The plan is to link teachers and principals to student data. He wants to provide teachers with meaningful data about students, and increase the use of data for decision making. He also wants to provide resources to turn around low achieving schools.

Financially, the President proposed a \$3 billion increase to programs under ESEA. \$1 billion of this is contingent upon Reauthorization. He proposed \$1 billion per year for 10 years for Early Childhood Learning programs. He proposed \$500 million for rural school Instructional Technology funding. He previously proposed increases to Race To The Top.

President Obama will require rigorous standards, accountability for outcomes, and better assessments. This is outlined in Race To The Top. RTTT will create new assessments.

Impact Aid

Mad River Schools receives Impact Aid funding from the United States Department of Education. Section 8002 funding is for federal property, while Section 8003 funding is for students who have parents in the military. USDOE is still making 8002 payments to FY 2006 applicants. For FY 2010, \$9.1 million of \$67.2 million has been distributed. 8002 has not been fully funded for 30 years. 250 districts receive 8002 funding. Only 50 of these districts send representatives to Washington DC to meet with legislators.

The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools knows that the President is proposing a \$3 billion increase in education reform. NAFIS is asking that legislators carve out \$90 million of that increase and give it to Impact Aid. They believe that much should be given to a program that has existed for 60 years.

It does also appear that much of the funding increase will be awarded through competitive grants. This could mean that some districts will not receive any additional funds.

Sincerely,

Mike Eaglowski

Casting the Future

(Continued from page 1)

continue to make decisions by looking at the present while also planning for the future. Given the finances of today and knowing that we are facing a difficult economic future, the board is considering whether to place a levy on the November ballot. Unless additional revenue is passed by the district in the near future we will have to make cuts that could negatively impact student achievement. While the millage is still being considered, we want our residents to know the reality that we are facing.

The district is committed to making our monies last, we are proud of the fact that our last levy passed in the district occurred in 2005. The focus of the Board of Education has and always will be to save money while making as small of an impact on the education of students as possible. Seeking additional revenue will play a critical role in funding our current programs and continuing to develop new and innovative programs. The school district has many positive things taking place. Test scores and overall student achievement have never been higher, we have some of the most modern school facilities in the area and thanks to a proactive and dedicated staff, our future looks bright. Our goal is to ensure that education in Mad River remains rigorous, and focused on preparing students for college and career success.

As always, the Board will engage in discussions with our community this summer and fall to solicit your input on the future of our school system.

Environmental Lesson Sparks Change at Stevenson Elementary

A campaign by students at Virginia Stevenson to help keep the earth clean has led to a cleaner lunchroom at the elementary school. The school is now the first school in Ohio to use a Styrofoam recycling machine, which it bought after second-graders wrote letters asking for alternatives to their plastic foam lunch trays.

After learning about how to keep the earth clean in music class, more than 70 second-graders wrote Food Service Supervisor Tom Zsembik asking him to please change the type of trays they use in the lunchroom. Zsembik looked into the request and was able to purchase a recycling system for \$7,000 from Thermo Compaction Systems of Florida, and it was installed March 4th.

The machine will help reduce the number of trash pickups in a given week from about three times to one or two. The machine has a return on investment of one year. The device is loaded with 1,200 trays and heats up to 365 degrees, which melts the trays to a plastic block using conductive heat. The company picks up the 30-inch-by-6 inch, 20 pound plastic blocks and converts them to three pound flower pots.

During the summer, more thermo compactors may go in the six other schools in the district.



Second grader Emily Swain does her part to keep the earth clean by recycling her lunch tray.

Third Grader Wins District Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Brantwood's Brooklyn Cassidy, for winning not only the Brantwood Spelling Bee, but also the district spelling bee held on Monday, January 25th at Dixie Middle School in New Lebanon. Brooklyn is a third grader in Mrs. Nichols' class and did an awesome job competing against students in upper grade levels. She competed at the Regional Spelling Bee held at Sinclair Community College on February 27th.



Brooklyn Cassidy, pictured here with her principal Chad Wyen, is this year's District Spelling Bee Champ!

Better Schools, Better Citizens

Stebbins Student Senate Celebrates Successful Christmas Fundraiser

2009 marked another successful year for Mad River Local School's Christmas Fundraiser. Spearheaded by the Stebbins Student Senate for more than three decades, this year's benefit raised nearly \$11,000.00, which gave over 250 children gifts for the holiday. A large contribution totaling \$2000 was generously donated by the Mad River Youth Football organization.

The Stebbins Student Senate wishes to thank the following business and organizations for their support and gifts.

Business

Dayton Dragons

Regal Cinemas

El Toro

Midas

Esther Price

Ponderosa

Pizza Hut

Mongolian Grill

Cheese Cake Factory

The Funny Bone

Local Organizations

These local organizations offered significant support and monetary donations.

Mad River Lions Club

Mad River Youth Football (\$2,000.00)

City Of Riverside (\$500.00)

Huddle Family (\$500.00)

Mad River Board of Education (\$500.00)



Stebbins Student Senate members take a break from shopping at the Riverside Kmart. Over 250 gifts were purchased for this year's Christmas Fundraiser.

Mad River Staff Benefit from Employee Health Fair

This school year, the Mad River School District decided to create a new goal: inspire employees to take a more active, informed role in their own health. Recent studies have shown that a healthy staff fosters a better work environment and reduces health related expenses.

To that end, the district created an Employee Wellness Committee. The Wellness Committee exists to encourage healthier lifestyles for employees through awareness and education. The program provides opportunities to help employees support a healthy work environment, health awareness, individual responsibility for a healthy lifestyle, decreased risk of disease and enhanced quality of life for all district personnel.

With the help of a \$2235 grant from the EPC, the group incorporated a wide-range of activities to increase the health and wellness of our staff. From Weight Watcher's meetings, to health assessments, and activity point sheets, our district staff has jumped on the health band wagon,

challenging themselves to become more health conscience.

A nutrition and lifestyle fair, organized by the district, was also held on March 25th at the Board of Education. Over

160 staff members visited health-themed stations and listened to presentations given by experts. Participants also walked away from the health fair with a little more knowledge about their health as well as lots of free goodies.



Board of Education Member Connie Cole gets her blood pressure checked during the district's Employee Health Fair this past March.

Stebbins Career Technology News

Accounting & Finance Program Places 1st in Stock Market Challenge

Last fall, students from the Accounting & Finance program took part in the 10-week Ohio Stock Market Challenge that ended December 12th, sponsored by Wright State University. We are pleased to announce that in the Wright State Region, the team of seniors Kyle Mildebrandt, Johnathon Miller, and Laura Rose won first place out of nearly 100 teams.

The team took their initial cash of \$100,000, and through investing in the right combination of stocks ended with a portfolio value of \$117,336, creating a return of more than 17% in only 10-weeks.

The team was invited to attend an awards luncheon on January 15th at WSU where they received certificates along with a check of \$100 for their first place finish. Also finishing high in the contest were the team of juniors Reba Key and Melissa Trejo, who placed 4th with a portfolio value of \$113,262, and the team of juniors Nathan Cox, Amanda Jones, and Tanya Maske, 11th with a portfolio value of \$105,860.

Kyle Mildebrandt Wins State Competition

Kyle Mildebrandt, a senior accounting student, won the state BPA competition in Advanced Accounting. He joins Jordan Wilcox as the two Stebbins students who have earned a trip to Anaheim California for the national competition in May.

By placing first or second in their respective events on the regional level, nine of these students, Christina Bowling, Alexis Jordan, Tashira Oldham, Autumn Smallwood, Matt DeSalvo, Traevon Leak, Kyle Mildebrandt, Katrina Smiley, and Allen Thuma earned the right to compete at state. The BPA state competition took place on March 18th and 19th in Columbus.

Of the students who competed, two received recognition for placing in the state top 10- Katrina Smiley and Traevon Leak.



Stebbins BPA state competitors pose for a photo during state competition in Columbus.

Engineering & Manufacturing Teams Crowned Grand Champions

On January 29th, a team made up of seniors from the Engineering and Manufacturing programs from Stebbins H.S. competed in the 14th annual Sinclair Community College's Manufacturing Process Design Contest. They went up against high school teams from the Dayton, Columbus and Cincinnati areas and we are proud to announce that Team Stebbins were crowned Grand Champions.

This is the seventh year out of the last eight that Stebbins has won the competition. This year's contest consisted of redesigning, for cost and manufacturability, a slide whistle. Each team set up their production area and produced their slide whistle designs for 30 minutes.

Team Stebbins produced 114 slide whistles using four operators in 30 minutes for a productivity score of 28.5. Second place was a high school team from Columbus who made 26 slide whistles with five operators for a productivity score of 5.2.

The team from Stebbins also won "Best Report" with their 100 plus page documentation report. All the Engineering and Manufacturing seniors participated on the winning team from Stebbins.

Better Schools, Better Citizens

District Says Goodbye to Beloved Board Member; Welcomes Newhouse to Board

The Mad River Board of Education bid farewell to Board Member Ken Davenport on December 15th and has welcomed Ruth Newhouse as the newest member of the panel.

Davenport had served on the school board for eight years before retiring at the end of 1998. He was re-elected to a four-year term in 2005. Davenport will always be remembered for his wisdom, good humor, and commitment for doing what's best for the students.

While Ken will no longer be making education decisions for the district, he will still be involved with students; he serves as a bus driver for Beaver Creek City Schools. We wish Ken the best and thank him for his years of service to our district and its students.

During its January board meeting, Ruth Newhouse was sworn into office. Ruth has been actively involved in the district for close to two decades. She is a graduate of Stebbins High School and is the mother of four children who are also Stebbins graduates.



Ken Davenport shows off his retirement gift from the Board of Education.



Ruth Newhouse

Teacher of the Year

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with. Mad River Middle School Principal Don Kuntz said Amy is a natural teacher. "Amy is a tenacious planner and instructor; she looks at results and makes decisions about where kids are. She is a kid magnet; and a role model for other teachers. I've known some outstanding teachers in my career; if you could take a picture of those people, Amy would be in that photograph."

Amy holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Wright State University and a master's degree from Antioch University.

Explaining her gift to education, Holbrook credits her inspiration and passion for teaching. "My greatest contribution is inspiring students to find something to be passionate about. My love for my job and history

shines through in the classroom. I don't mind letting them see me get carried away by the stories of our past and connecting them to our present. I am hopeful that my passion allows students to cultivate their own passion, find a way to pursue their passion, while taking care of themselves and contributing to their community."

Other candidates for Mad River Teacher of the Year include: Andrea Rastatter, the Spinning Hills Teacher of the Year, and Elizabeth Wolfe-Eberly, the Stebbins Teacher of the Year. The district congratulates Amy and our other nominees; they are wonderful examples of the great teaching that occurs within our district every day.

Ohio School Board Honors Scott Huddle

Congratulations to Board Member Scott Huddle. Scott has learned that he is the recipient of the 2010 OSBA (Ohio School Board Association) Award of Achievement. The Award of Achievement is given to school board members in recognition of their commitment to training and leadership activities on their boards of education and region and statewide OSBA activities.

The OSBA Award of Achievement is presented to a very select group each year. Of the more than 3,400 board members in Ohio, only 93 received this honor in 2010.

Huddle has also been recognized with the OSBA's Master Board Member Award. This award is given to school board members who dedicate themselves to improving their boardmanship skills and knowledge. The Master Board Member honor is only awarded once to an individual and is bestowed for life.

Preschool & Kindergarten Registration Dates Announced

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Mad River Early Childhood Center Preschool application packets for the 2010-2011 school year will be available beginning on May 3, 2010. Those packets can be picked up in the Student Services Department at 801 Old Harshman Road. *Only Mad River School District residents may register their child(ren).* Preschool is a half day program offered Monday through Thursday during the school year for children ages 3-5. Enrollment is on a first-come first-served basis, so early registration is encouraged. The cost of the program is currently \$200 per semester.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Early registration for full day kindergarten in Mad River Local Schools for the 2010-2011 school year will be held Monday, May 10th through Friday, May 14th. Children who will be five years old on or before August 1, 2010, are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten. Parents may register their children 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the school they will be attending.

At the time of registration, the parent/legal guardian is requested to have: proof of residency; the child's birth certificate; immunization record; and court custody papers, if applicable. Information on the required immunizations is available at the school. Physical and dental exams are recommended.



The Mad River Food Service Department announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children. Free meals will be made available to all children 18 years of age and under or persons over 18 who are determined by a state or local public educational agency to be mentally or physically disabled. Meals will be provided on the dates and at the sites listed below:

June 7 - August 6, 2009/Monday-Friday
(no lunch on July 2, 2009)

WHERE:

Saville
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Beverly Gardens
11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Virginia Stevenson (back lawn)
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m..

Rohrer Park
12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Overlook Homes (Community Center)
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Bowling Teams Record Successful Season

Both the boys and girls bowling teams have reason to celebrate. Both groups captured local and state awards, and secured another CBC Championship! The Lady Indians qualified for Districts for the second consecutive year, their third in four years.

The boys also won their third championship in the past four years, senior Johnathon Miller, a two-time Ohio High School Bowler of the Year advanced to the District championships for the fourth consecutive year. Clint Bell, Chase Kolozsi, Mi-

chael Brewer, Chase Carter, and Johnathon Miller combined for the first ever 300 Baker game in school and CBC history. The Indians not only rolled the perfect 300 game, they also completed a perfect 16-0 regular season.



Clint Bell cranks it up during a bowling match this past season.



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Better Schools, Better Citizens



Stebbins High School recently held its "Commitment to Graduate" Ceremony. Commit to Graduate is a program sponsored by Jostens. All 304 freshmen proudly signed a banner expressing their commitment to graduate as a part of the Class of 2014. The banner will hang in the high school's lunchroom. Each year, the senior class will be asked to make the same commitment to graduate and will receive a banner.

Important Dates

Preschool Registration	May 3
Kindergarten Registration	May 10-14
Last Day of School	May 27
<i>Early Release (2hr, 25min)</i>	
Graduation	May 28
9 th Grade Orientation	Aug 12
First Day of School (Grades 1-12)	Aug 16
All Kindergarten in Session	Aug 20
Grade 9 - No School	