

THE GARAWAY

AT THE HELM:

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

Throughout the course of this year, we have heard a lot of debate about Common Core Standards and the high-stakes testing that comes with it. The Garaway Local School Board has expressed concern over both the standards and testing. However, it is important to note that our school district recognizes the legal

obligation to adhere to these standards and offer these tests.

Consequently, our staff has been working diligently to teach our students as trained professionals and fulfill our obligations. We also recognize the importance of parents and community values in a successful education. Thus, we will continue to work together as a team to make the Garaway Local Schools an exemplary place for student learning and success.

Yet, the debate and publicity over these issues remains. Clearly, there are valid concerns with the Common Core Standards and the accompanying assessments. The

erosion of local control, quantity of testing and impact of standardization needs to be examined. We are witnessing a new era of standardized education across our country. It is a time where all American children are exposed to the same content, delivered by a highly standardized structure and monitored by equally

standardized evaluation systems. This system is intended to provide accountability. We are told the assessments will help measure and rank our students, teachers, schools and district. However, we know that we don't need a national test to assess our effectiveness. Clearly, we understand that student progress monitoring has value. For years, we have used local assessments, classroom data and curriculum to guide instruction and meet the learning needs of our students. Measurements and accountability are not new concepts. However, when that is accomplished with high-stakes testing and a national standardization, you expend an inordinate amount of time, energy and anxiety on the wrong things.

@GARAWAYLOCAL



WRESTLING

Wrestling had a very successful season under coach Gerber. This year the wrestlers were IVC team champs with 4 individual IVC champs and 7 IVC runner ups. Ethan Slentz was awarded the IVC tournament MVP and coach Gerber was an IVC coach of the year.

In Sectional tournament action the Pirates were 3rd and qualified an impressive 7 wrestlers to Districts. 1st Place - Drexel Weber; 2nd Place Ethan Slentz, Austin Yackey; 3rd place Grant Hershberger, Tanner Petite, Logan Hershberger; 4th place Josh Liggett; and Alternates Jerrod Hunt, Gunnar Angel. Additionally, Austin Yackey made it to the state tournament as an alternate.

"Helping students succeed is a priority at Garaway."

Helping students succeed is our priority at Garaway. Developing a love for learning is our priority. Inspiring and innovating is our priority. We understand that every student is special and possesses a variety of talents and skills. Incidentally, most of those unique qualities and skills cannot be measured on a single, standardized assessment.

At Garaway Local Schools we want our students to be involved in an array of activities. We want them to learn how to be relational, creative and critical thinkers. As tension and concerns rise over standards, testing and student opt-outs, we cannot overemphasize the importance of parental and community engagement. We need to find a way to be unified at this critical juncture in education. We

believe our partnership will keep our schools strong and aligned with our corporate values.

We will remain steadfast in our efforts to help students succeed and vigilantly monitor the latest issues that impact the school

experience. Together we can make a better tomorrow for the students. As Lyndon Johnson said,

"We believe our partnership will keep our schools strong and aligned with our corporate values."

"There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves." Thank you for your support of our students and our schools and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

IN THE COFFER: TREASURER'S NOTE

The Garaway School District passed a significant milestone in December, 2014, by making the final payment on a \$2.2 million in bond debt for the construction of additional high school classrooms, gymnasium, and locker rooms that have been a liability to the District since 1990. With the bond officially retired, the District has joined a select group of school districts in the state of Ohio, and the only District in Tuscarawas County with no bonded debt. Being free of long-term debt is a powerful statement about fiscal responsibility, and the credit belongs to the citizens of the Garaway School District who approved the School Improvement Bond in 1990. This places the District on solid footing to meet the future.



FROM THE FLEET:

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Next year, Garaway High School will be offering new opportunities to students through College Credit Plus and Fuel Education. Ohio is expanding their dual enrollment program through College Credit Plus. Many of us are aware of post secondary options in the past where students left Garaway to attend Kent State Tusc. By doing this in high school, the student received high school credit along with college credit. The biggest change to College Credit Plus is that students may now stay at Garaway while taking college classes. We are working with Stark State to bring English, Math and Social Studies classes along with several electives to our school. Classes will be taught by Garaway teachers who are credentialed to be adjunct professors. There is no cost to the students to participate in these classes and they can earn dual credits.

Fuel education partners with schools and districts to personalize learning. They provide innovative digital learning solutions for pre-K through 12th grade that empower districts to implement and grow successful online and blended learning programs. We look forward to using Fuel Ed as a curriculum tool in many ways. It will provide our teachers another tool to use in the classroom. It will provide students the opportunity to take classes we do not offer at Garaway by enrolling in an online class and it will provide students who desire a more flexible schedule or setting that opportunity.

We are in the planning stages to roll these programs out this spring as we plan for next year. We do know the programs will open many more opportunities for our students in the line of curriculum which is exciting and beneficial. If you have specific questions, please do not hesitate to ask.



BOYS BASKETBALL

Boys basketball finished the regular season 15-7 achieving 2nd in the IVC with a 12-4 league record. The season ended with the boys going 13-3 and playing some of their best basketball of the season. Several players were recognized with IVC league honors including Sam Gebhardt and Josh Werker 1st team, Ty Hamsher 2nd team, and Joel Honigford honorable mention. Sam Gebhardt was also named District 5 Division III player of the year. Additional District 5 honors went to Josh Werker, Ty Hamsher, and Clay Honigford. Coach Shutt is especially proud that 9 of his players maintained at least a 3.63 GPA while balancing their classroom responsibilities with a long, grueling basketball season.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

This winter, Miller Avenue Elementary held a Native American day. Former Principal Larry Compton came in with a collection of Native American items. He gave presentations to students grades K-6 and allowed students some hands on experiences.

The students enjoyed seeing tools, utensils and animal furs. Grades K, 1 & 2 spent the morning visiting learning stations. They played traditional Native American games, created headbands and vests decorated with Native American symbols, learned about dwellings, created necklaces, sorted seeds, listened to stories and did a little fishing and buffalo hunting.

"THE STUDENTS HAD A FANTASTIC MORNING AND TOOK HOME A SCRAPBOOK TO SHARE WITH THEIR FAMILIES."

Food Store for donating the materials for our vests. We would also like to express our appreciation to Larry Compton for a memorable learning experience for all of our students.



2015 Indoor State Champion: Roxy Dunn



Flapjacks and Fun at Baltic Elementary

Flapjacks and Fun was held at Baltic Elementary on Saturday, March 7th. The pancake breakfast was served from 7:00 - 10:00 and collected donations for the student programs.

There were reading and math activities in the gym for the kids from 8:00 - 10:00. Students participated in activities and earned a book by visiting different stations. The goal was for every student to leave with a new book.

A silent auction and raffle was also held, thanks to donations from each class and local businesses. All proceeds went to the Baltic PTO and the Baltic Principal's Fund to help support school activities and special events.

Great American Magazine Sale

Baltic and Ragersville students sold magazines as part of the Great American Magazine Sale. Along with the magazine subscriptions, tumblers were also sold. Tumblers will be ready for pick-up and delivery on February 19th. It was a successful sale again this year. Thank you to everyone that helped. We appreciate your support.

The Officer Phil Program came to Baltic and Ragersville

All students in Kdg. - 4th grade were included in the fun assembly focused on teaching students about stranger danger, negative effects of bullying, internet safety and respect for authority figures. We appreciate the Officer Phil program as they made their annual visit to teach students about these important topics.

APRIL 2

No School - Easter Break
Our break concludes on April 6.

MAY 13

Strategic Planning Meeting
Our last planning meeting will be at 6:30 @ GHS.

MAY 28

The last day of school for students with a 2 hour early dismissal.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Girls basketball tallied an impressive 17-5 record to achieve 2nd in the IVC this season. Several girls received deserving post-season honors including Izzy Meese and Kendra Miller (1st team IVC and District 5), Courtney Werker (2nd team IVC and District 5) and Katelyn Miller (honorable mention IVC and District 5). Three of the team's losses came to top caliber state ranked teams and they were able to get key wins over tough competition against Carrollton, Ridgewood, and Dover squads. "We have a young team that has continued to grow and improve through hard work throughout the season. Our lone senior, Katelyn Miller, has shown leadership all year long and will be missed next year," said Coach Monigold. Our girls defeated Coshcocton, Buckeye Trail and Ridgewood in post-season tournament action.

21ST CENTURY GRANT NEWS

The 21st CCLC Grant promotes service learning projects coordinated by ASPC students and staff. Operation Christmas Child was launched this winter to involve Garaway students in a worthwhile service learning project. Items such as toys, candies, and personal hygiene items were collected for children ages 2-14 to be packed and shipped in shoe box size containers to children in need throughout the world. Boxes and labels were provided by a local church and all Garaway students were invited to participate. The GAP program offered points to students who contributed to the boxes between the collection dates.

The boxes were packed and delivered during the week of Nov. 10th to a local business, which contributed the \$7 shipping fee required for each box. ASPC students enclosed letters in the boxes encouraging further

communication from children who receive the boxes. ASPC students packed 47 boxes thanks to contributions from Garaway Students and 43 students received GAP points for their participation.

Pirate Crew News

The After School and Before School Pirate Crew programs are in full swing offering a variety of activities for all Garaway Students. The BSPC program meets daily from 7:00-7:30AM and the ASPC program meets Monday-Thursday from 2:30-5:00PM. The ASPC program students have been cooking at Park Street Pizza, creating decorative items under the direction of the Floral Chalet,

Perfect Petals, and Stacey Putt. ASPC Students toured Superb Industries to get a first-hand look at how the local business operates. Paul Mowery conducted a series of self-defense classes and Guitar lessons continue on Tuesdays under the direction of Hummingbird Music. Enrollment in the program is open to all students at any time and forms are available in the High School Office. Clubs are also sponsored by the 21st CCLC Pirate Crew and are always seeking new members. The Babysitting Club, under the guidance of Brenda Crilow, met in November and the participating

students felt that they received necessary skills, such as CPR, and knowledge about infants and children, that would benefit them in their babysitting experiences. The Forensic Club, Computer Club, and Minecraft Clubs offer challenges to those "brainiacs" who are interested in computer and scientific quests. Fitness Club and Running

Club promote wellness and physical activities for anyone interested in getting or keeping in shape. For those interested in art or music, two new clubs have begun. Photography Club, under the direction of Mr. Nyholm, meets on Wednesdays and Garage Band, under the direction of Mr. Tripp, has also begun. Students can request information about the clubs in the High School Office. Students are welcome to explore an interest and enroll in a club at any time.

