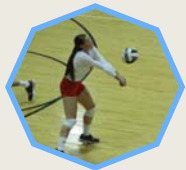




*Garaway Schools improved security measures this school year*



*Garaway Elementary Schools received digital tablets for improving literacy*



*Winter Sports had successful seasons and honored athletes and coaches*



@GarawayLocal



www.Garaway.org

# THE GARAWAY

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2016

### AT THE HELM: SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

The limited condition of Ohio school funding creates challenges that are difficult for school districts. Essentially, revenue has been decreasing or remaining stagnant while inflation has increased necessary operating expenses. However, those growing challenges can be conquered with sufficient dedication, creativity and teamwork. Above all, success with these impediments stems from a belief in the importance of our students and community. I am proud of the collaboration, ingenuity and accomplishments that were achieved at Garaway Schools this year. Moreover, we are thankful for the people that supported those efforts.

At this point in our school year, it is a great time to look back at some of the accomplishments from 2015/2016. Through the acquisition of grant money, our 7-12 building completed an extensive upgrade in security. Also, through grant funds, donations and benevolent contributors, Baltic Elementary is transforming their library into a vibrant multimedia center and space to enjoy reading and learning. Additionally, Baltic Elementary was able to replace many classroom windows through a community gift. Local efforts and consideration also allowed Ragersville Elementary to complete a flooring project. Furthermore, the Rotary Foundation provided funding for digital tablets to be used by our elementary students. They are also hoping to fund a new digital sign in front of our 7-12 building in order to effectively keep our community informed of upcoming events. Furthermore, each of our buildings received landscaping attention and upgrades through an army of community volunteers.

Looking ahead in 2016, we are working to partner with Paradise Energy to help our students learn more about alternative energy sources and reduce our current electric expenditures. This project will fund solar panels on the roof of the Garaway Belden Center. Ultimately, the district will save a significant amount on annual energy expenses for that building while simultaneously allowing students to monitor and learn throughout this entire process. We are also finalists for a \$10,000,000 school improvement grant. We have been working hard to obtain this grant from the XQ Super School Project. Lastly, through the help of community support, we will be working on upgrades for Miller Avenue Elementary and Dundee Elementary.

We are grateful for the support from our communities. Without your help, it would be difficult to provide an excellent, safe and inspiring place to learn and grow. We desire to make our community strong and proud. If you would like to get connected, please consider volunteering or joining a committee. We have an ongoing Facility Committee, Finance Committee and Curriculum Committee and we welcome your involvement.

# IN THE COFFER: *TREASURER'S NOTE*

## *FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY*

As the Garaway Local School District Board of Education is statutorily required to deliver educational programs and services to the school children and is responsible to the community including taxpayers, parents, and other patrons to ensure an effective, vibrant, and productive education system, they have authorized the District Superintendent and Treasurer to symbolically invoice the Governor of the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Education \$1.9 Million dollars that the Garaway District has lost since fiscal year 2002 to charters, which are privately run public schools in the state. An invoice asking for payment in full, based on figures compiled by the Treasurer's office, will be sent along with the Resolution.

These figures were taken as a deduction from the state foundation funding under the district's budget line-item "Community Schools" payments from fiscal years 2002 to 2016.

The state foundation budget formula, which has evolved over the years, takes into consideration, local and state contributions. The Ohio Department of Education determines the budget formula, which includes the contributions to the community schools based on Ohio law. Semimonthly, the District receives money from the Ohio Department of Education for operation – along with the deduction for students attending charter/community schools. With only two charter schools in Tuscarawas County, the majority of the money diverted from Garaway is spread throughout the state to places like Columbus, Cincinnati, Akron, Cleveland, and Toledo, to name a few of cities where large charters operate.

The money not received from the state has cost Garaway students class offerings, teachers, educational support and enrichment opportunities, as well as other services. The loss of this money has cost the local taxpayer additional money by having to subsidize monies lost to the charter school industry in the form of additional tax levies.

The Board is aware that likelihood the district will receive such a sum from the state is slim to none, but they believe they must take the stand on behalf of taxpayers, who may not know how the diversion of funding to charter schools has affected local districts.



*Public school districts use a combination of state funds, local sources such as property taxes (and in some cases income taxes) and federal funds.*

*The amount of state funds that a district receives is based on a formula that takes into account student enrollment and the property wealth of the district.*

## **GARAWAY LOCAL SCHOOLS RECEIVES AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD**

A recent financial audit of Garaway Local Schools for the year ending June 30, 2015 (FY2015) by the Auditor of State Dave Yost's office has returned a clean audit report. Garaway's excellent record keeping has earned it the *Auditor of State Award*.

*"We are extremely pleased and proud to receive this award from the State Auditor's office. The Treasurer's office and administration work very hard to follow state law and best practices to stay in financial reporting compliance. We understand the importance of good stewardship when dealing with public money." - Sheryl Hardesty, Treasurer*

# 7-12 BUILDING NEWS

GARAWAY JUNIOR / SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Brian Gibson

&

Mr. Chip Amicone

## By Logan Wallick

The Appalachian Trail student field trip was an amazing, unforgettable experience for me. I have so many stories I could share from the trail. I'm sure the other hikers do as well. When you're on the trail, you get to witness and learn a lot of really cool things in nature. One of the things I learned is that you can bond with anyone. Before the trail, I didn't know many of my fellow hikers very well. But at the end of the trail, not only did I know everyone personally, but I became friends with everyone. Something about the trail makes you bond with people in a manner you would have never expected. It is a relational experience. Perhaps it's hiking 11 miles a day, hiking in the freezing hail or being out in the middle of nowhere. Maybe it's those laughter filled campfires, or it's an unplanned sleepover in a Walmart parking lot. Yes that actually happened. Regardless of what it is, it's a beautiful, human experience. Actually, it's beyond beautiful. I can't wait to hike again next year as a senior. Hopefully, you will join me and the others make more memories.



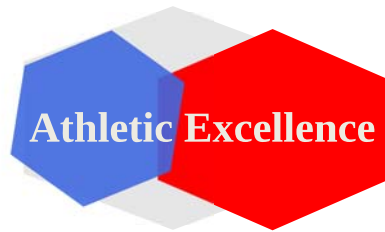
## GARAWAY WRESTLING

This past wrestling season revealed the true character of many of our young men. Not only did we as a team have to deal with the highs and lows of competition but we were forever bonded in brotherhood while dealing with the loss of a father. We stood as a family to support a teammate in his darkest hour and lived out the words of being a true friend not just words of support but intentional actions of support. Our wrestlers grew as young men on and off the mat. We were IVC runner ups, qualified 7 wrestlers to the District Tournament and had a State Alternate.

*All Seniors are to complete a Senior Scholarship info sheet and a Final Transcript Release form by May 20. Your final transcript will be sent to the institution you indicate on your form. Transcripts will be completed around June 8 and will be mailed for you. You will also receive a copy for your records.*



# GHS SPORTS IN REVIEW



## BOYS BASKETBALL

The 2015-2016 Boys Basketball Team was able to accomplish some great things this season. Our team finished with a 23-4 record, 16-0 in very competitive IVC league. They were sectional and district champs, making it to the SWEET 16. The team was able to string 17 wins in a row before falling to Marion Pleasant in the Regional-semi Final game. This was a span of 73 days from our last loss which came on December 26th to Harvest Prep. One of the greatest characteristics of this team was that no one really took the credit. Everyone stepped up for each other and was willing to do whatever it took to help the team succeed. Many players were recognized for their accomplishments both on and off of the court. The following players received recognition this year:

**Sam Gebhardt** reached the 1,000 point milestone during the regular season. 1st Team All-Ohio, Selected to play in North-South All Star game April 22nd at Otterbein University, 1st Team IVC, District 5, and Eastern District, Player of the Year Division 3 District 5 and Eastern District, Selected to play in East/West Game

**Ty Hamsher** Honorable Mention All-Ohio. 1st Team IVC, 2nd Team District 5 and Eastern District, Selected to play in Top 100 Underclassmen @ Otterbein University

**Cameron Miller** Special Mention Eastern District, Honorable Mention District 5, 2nd Team IVC, Selected to play in East/West Game

**Broc Beachy** Honorable Mention Eastern District and IVC

**Dallas Foster** Honorable Mention Eastern District, District 5 Scholarship Award Winner

**Joel Honigford** Honorable Mention Eastern District



## LADY PIRATE BASKETBALL



The 2015-2016 Lady Pirates had another very successful season, finishing Ranked 3rd in the state in Division III, with a 23-4 record. The season began way back in the summer of 2015 with trips to Huggins Camp where the team was able to win the Camp tournament. The team also went to Tiffin University where they went 7-0 and enjoyed a day at Cedar Point together. During the season, there were many memorable moments, including a double overtime win at Malvern that saw us erase an 8 point deficit in the 1st overtime. The season also saw Izzy Meese become the 11th player in school history to score over 1,000 points. As a team, they set the school record for three point goals made in a season at 159. The team was led by Seniors Kendra Miller, Izzy Meese, Courtney Werker, Cari Yoder, and Alexa Putt. This group of girls participated in three district Finals and one Regional Final. The 2015-2016 Lady Pirates showed that hard work and determination can result in good things and off the court.

# ELEMENTARY NEWS

## DUNDEE & MILLER AVENUE ELEMENTARY

A lot of great things have been happening throughout the school year at Miller Avenue and Dundee Elementary schools! Both schools sent our Spelling Bee champions to Canton to participate in the regional spelling bee. At Miller Avenue, teachers decorated their doors with their favorite Dr. Seuss character or book as a contest to celebrate Read across America week. Students came around and put a sticker on their favorite door!



Spelling bee champions: Sydni Prysni and Paige Hostetler

Both schools duct-taped their principal, Mr. Fisher to the wall for reaching their fund-raising goals this year. Miller Avenue had many great volunteers in for our COSI on Wheels day. COSI came in to provide nine hands-on activities related to the weather, called Current Conditions. Think of it as a field trip right inside of our school! Students got to experience the power of air pressure, and the forces at work in our atmosphere.

Dundee will be hosted their school carnival on April 22. Countless volunteers were on hand to help provide a wonderful spring evening for the family and friends of Dundee Elementary. Miller Avenue similarly provided a math curriculum night for all community members with many cool math activities, hands-on manipulatives, pie walks, and technology. Such a strong community in both schools makes for great elementary experiences for our students!

**Mr. Curt Fisher**

**&**

**Mr. Jeff Williams**

*Garaway volleyball camp forms are due May 20. Girls entering grades 3, 4 and 5 have camp May 31-June 2 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Girls entering grades 6, 7 and 8 have camp June 6-8 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Forms may be turned into Susie Schlabach in the Garaway Athletic Office.*



# ELEMENTARY NEWS

*BALTIC & RAGERSVILLE ELEMENTARY*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS!

Ragersville and Baltic Elementaries celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss in style with a week of dress up days. Among the days were green (Green Eggs and Ham), Inside-out, backwards, colorful day, etc. Grades kindergarten through third grade also had extended activities relating to Dr. Seuss throughout the day.



## FLAPJACKS & FUN AT BALTIC ELEMENTARY



Baltic held its annual Flapjacks and Fun fundraiser the second weekend of March and thanks to the tremendous support of the community the school was able to raise more than \$6,000 to go towards its "Bringing Life to the Library" renovation project. So far the library has received a new drop ceiling and new lighting.

The staff of Baltic Elementary are to be commended for working hard on a Saturday morning to cook sausage and pancakes, run games for the kids in the gym and run silent auctions. From 7 to 10 a.m people were treated to a "by donation" pancake and sausage breakfast with juice, milk and coffee, along with apple sauce. From 8 to 10 there were fun games in the gym and before leaving, every child received a free book.





## ***SUMMER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES WITH GVA***

Garaway Virtual Academy will be offering summer school options using their digital platform for summer 2016. The program will run from June to July and will focus on students needing credit recovery options as well as students intending to take advance credits toward graduation. Classes are open to any student from any school district at \$50 per class taken.

The course offerings are extensive and provides many exciting options for students. From credit recovery in the core subjects like English and mathematics to elective options like criminology, students have choices that previous options did not provide. An interactive and flexible learning management system allows for ease of use as well as a fun and engaging format for students to learn.

Registration runs until June 15th and the program ends on July 29th. Questions regarding the program may be directed to Chuck Zobel, Virtual Coordinator, at 330-852-4699.

*Students attend a quiet and pleasant setting where questions are answered, collaboration is encouraged, and learning is achieved.*



For more information about Garaway Virtual Academy, contact Mr. Charles Zobel at (330) 852-4699.







# GETTING THE MOST FROM OUR TEACHING AND LEARNING

**Mr. Ryan Taggart**

**Director of  
Student Services**

## *CURRICULUM AND TESTING 2015/16*

Over the past several months, Garaway Local School District has been able to accomplish several tasks which have generated community involvement and excitement throughout our buildings. I want to express this excitement through a series of “Did you know” questions.

Did You Know the Garaway Local School District has created a committee to help inform the community and parents of the wonderful things being done in our classrooms? This committee is called “Classroom 2 Community” and the next meeting will be held this Fall in the high school learning lab. This committee discusses anything from curriculum and testing to the integration of technology in our classrooms. For more information contact Ryan Taggart at (330) 852-3418.

Speaking of technology, Did You Know Dundee Elementary will soon be equipped with Chromebook carts on each floor of the building. In fact, just this week, the Garaway LSD used Title funding to purchase some touch screen Chromebooks for the K-2 students to become familiar with so they can make an easier transition into the regular Chromebook which is already

being used within the classrooms at Dundee.

Did You Know Garaway recently identified 13 third grade students as gifted in either mathematics or reading?

Did You Know, 100% of Garaway teachers are Highly Qualified in their subject area? This means the Ohio Department of Education recognizes these individuals as knowledgeable educators in their respective content area.

Did You Know Garaway High School’s MH program started a school to work program this year? Two of our students have already been offered jobs from some of the work sites.

Did You Know to better prepare our students for the higher level English and Math courses required for graduation; Garaway High School has implemented SideCar classes into the schedule for struggling students. These classes will start next year and present an opportunity for a student to sit in either an English and/or Math class prior to entering their own scheduled class. If you have further questions regarding what a SideCar class is and how it benefits our students please contact Mr. Gibson or Mr. Taggart at the high school.



If you are interested in joining our curriculum committee please contact Mr. Ryan Taggart at [rtaggart@garaway.org](mailto:rtaggart@garaway.org)

