

MINSTER LOCAL SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

The first quarter of school has come and gone. It is amazing to me how quickly the year is progressing. I want to take this time to thank all parents and staff members for making the consolidation of our three school buildings into two such a smooth process. It is hard to believe that just one year ago we began investigating the possibility and here we are living the finished product. On that note, I would like to address those parents, grandparents, students or friends who drive in or around 7th and Hanover Street during arrival or dismissal. Traffic increases a great deal from 7:45-8:10 and again from 3:10-3:30. If you do not have the need to be in this area, choosing an alternate route during these times would greatly help our traffic flow. In order to keep our students safe, we have a crossing guard positioned at Hanover and 7th Street both in the morning and in the afternoon. The crossing guard's duty is to STOP all traffic in order to allow the children to safely cross the street. It is very important that all traffic STOPS when a crossing guard enters the intersection. When students are walking across any street of the intersection NO vehicles should be moving. We have had many cases of drivers trying to turn right if students are walking on the left. Please be mindful and make sure you STOP when you see the crossing guard enter the intersection and you DO NOT move until the crossing guard has left the intersection. Please note, the crossing guard's job is to make sure students cross safely, they are not directing traffic. Parents, your help in making sure your children follow the direction of the crossing guard is critical. We need your help in keeping all of our students and staff safe.

Another way we keep our students and staff safe is by maintaining our school facilities. On November 8, 2011, you will be asked to RENEW the 0.8 mill Permanent Improvement Levy. This 0.8 mill voted tax is then reduced to a 0.2 mill effective tax that generates \$32,000 a year. This levy is not a new levy. It is only a renewal and will not increase your current taxes. We use this money to improve and repair our facilities, replace and purchase equipment, replace buses and lease the school truck and van. This levy is renewed every 5 years and has been in existence since before 1976. The community's continued support of this levy demonstrates the value Minster residents place on education. For that support we say THANK YOU.

In closing, as is said each day at the elementary school, *"It's an honor to be a Wildcat."*

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brenda Boeke
Superintendent

UPDATE ON OUR IN-TOWN BUS STOPS



As we close in on the end of the first quarter, a couple of ideas about the in-town stops come to mind. The students have grown into a routine of arriving at their stop well before the scheduled pickup time. This is a safety factor so the driver does not worry about students running across streets to catch the bus. Please keep up this excellent practice! There are two topics that the school would like to enlist your help with concerning these stops. First, as the weather turns to cold, please resist the temptation to drive or pickup your children at the stop location. This action will result in congesting the area and thereby reducing the safety factor that we need for the students. These stops were designed to be a "walking" stop for those using the service. Secondly, as the snow season arrives, if you live relatively close to a stop, it would be appreciated by both the school and the homeowner of the stop location, if the students would clear the snow off the stop area.

Thank you in advance for your help with these topics. As always, if you have any issues or concerns, please contact me.

Donald Patch
Transportation Coordinator: 628-2324 EXT 2039



www.minster.k12.oh.us

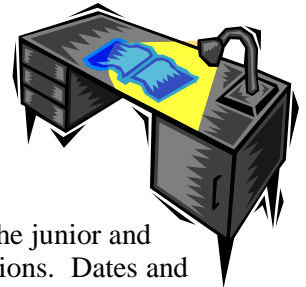
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JUNIOR HIGH / SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS GRADES 7-12

“From the Administrator’s Desk”

Mr. Mike Lee: Junior High / Senior High School Principal



CURRICULUM

Parents are encouraged to follow up with teaching staff relative to end of quarter marks at both the junior and senior high school levels. Parent-Teacher Conferences are an excellent avenue for these discussions. Dates and times are set as follows:

- Thursday, November 10 from 5:30 – 8:30 P.M.
- Friday, November 11 from 8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Exams are set for only the high school students on January 10-12, 2012. There is no early release of students, as they are expected to be present the entire sessions.

PARENT RESOURCES

- Preparing for the ACT: www.act.org/aap/pdf/preparing.pdf
This booklet includes descriptions of the skills measured by the ACT. Students can ask our guidance department for a free copy as well.
- ACT Parent Newsletter: www.act.org/path/parent/news/
This is a monthly newsletter to help parents guide students from middle and high school toward college & careers. Subscribe for free!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, November 7 10:00 A.M. Veteran’s Day Program
- Wednesday, November 16 Morning Career Day
- November 17 – 20 FCCLA Cluster Meeting-Atlanta, GA
- Wednesday, December 7 Interim Reports
- Monday, December 12 Blood Drive
- January 10 – 12 Semester Exams
- Friday, January 13 End of Second Quarter

HIGH SCHOOL SPEAKER

Christopher Stefanick is a highly effective speaker with more than a decade of experience working with teens both nationally and internationally. His dynamic presentations, titled “No Limitations”, have inspired tens of thousands of teens nationwide to embrace the virtues of an abstinent lifestyle, regardless of the past. Christopher will be speaking to surrounding high schools (seven in all) on a three-day tour. His chastity/abstinence assembly goes beyond fear tactics as he shares his own experiences of dating, being a husband, and being a dad. These experiences range from hilarious to deeply moving. Mr. Stefanick will be addressing the high school students in an assembly set on Monday, November 28 beginning at 2:00 P.M. in the high school gym. For more information, see www.chastity.org.



FFA MEMBERS COMPETE IN DISTRICT AND STATE LAND JUDGING

The Minster FFA recently placed 8th out of 28 teams in the District 5 FFA Rural Land and Soil Judging Contest held in Miami County. The rural soils contest is an educational activity designed as a practical method of teaching students to evaluate land and soil to determine its greatest safe potential use for rural, agricultural uses. The soils pits and

surrounding areas are evaluated on the following: slope, erosion or depth of the topsoil, texture of the surface soil, depth of the soil, and natural drainage of the soil. These areas then help determine land class capabilities and best use of the land for agricultural purposes with recommended conservation practices applied to each soil pit and surrounding areas.

The team members in the rural soil judging contest were Jake Winner, Rob Wentz, Doug Huber, Mark Hackemoeller, Adam Dirksen, Michaela Goettemoeller, Stephanie Albers, and Ryan Will. Individually, Jake Winner placed 4th out of 185 participants.

The Urban Land Judging team placed 5th in the district 5 contest out of 23 teams. The urban contest is designed as a practical method of teaching students to evaluate land and soil to determine its potential use for urban, home site, and other non-farm uses. Team members included Abbey Goubeaux, Daniel Gushing, Lauren Schmidt, Tyler Dues, Theo Schlater, Michael Bruns, Stephanie Albers and Clay Bornhorst. This fifth place finish advanced the team to the state contest on October 10 in Pickaway County. The team of Abbey Goubeaux, Lauren Schmidt, Stephanie Albers and Tyler Dues (pictured below) placed 40th in the state contest.

MINSTER FFA CLAIMS 3 NATIONAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Three FFA members received their American FFA Degree at the 84th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis on Saturday, October 22, 2011. It is the highest degree awarded by the National FFA Organization and recognizes Matt Albers, Adam Poeppelman and Curt Muhlenkamp for demonstrating leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing, and service programs. Earning the degree means these members are among a select group of individuals recognized for years of academic and professional excellence.

Less than one in 161 FFA members advance through their local chapter and state FFA degree programs to earn this national degree. Albers, the son of Rob and Lisa Albers is a student at Wright State University Lake Campus and continues his work experience at the Greg Stueve Farm and the Steve Albers Farm. Poeppelman, the son of Steve and Agnes Poeppelman continues to work at the Poeppelman Dairy Farm, and Muhlenkamp, the son of Kevin and Pat Muhlenkamp is working at the Dannon Company along with finishing his HVAC certification from UNOH in Lima.

Each member received a Gold American FFA Degree key and a certificate in a blue leather frame to commemorate their achievement. The recognition is sponsored by Case IH, The Progressive Farmer, Farm Credit, Pioneer, and Syngenta, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The National FFA convention is the nation's largest annual youth gathering, welcoming students, parents, and educators from all across the United States.

The National FFA Organization, is a national youth organization of 540,379 student members—all preparing for leadership careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture—as part of the 7,489 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Follow National FFA on Facebook, Twitter, and FFA Nation.

In addition, seven local FFA members and advisor, Paul Winglewich, traveled to Indianapolis for the four-day convention. Attending the National Convention were: Abbey Goubeaux, Lauren Schmidt, Bridget McGowan, Michaela Goettemoeller, Adam Dirksen, Michael Bruns and Mark Hackemoeller. The group toured Jungle Jim's International Market, Steward Seed and Select Angus, Not Just Popcorn, along with Claas Distribution Center and the Cummins Engine Assembly Plant. In addition, the group heard motivational speakers, attended leadership workshops and the National FFA Career show.

FFA MEMBERS PARTICIPATE AT TRUPOINTE LEADERSHIP DAY

Fifteen FFA members participated in leadership day help at the trupointe Research Farm in Moulton. Members heard from speakers as well as participated in some hands-on activities dealing with water percolation and soil compaction. In addition, the FFA chapter wrote an essay on the leadership theme of "I believe in" and was awarded a \$500 chapter award. The FFA appreciates the donation made by trupointe Cooperative to our local chapter.



The Urban Land Judging team that placed 40th in the state contest



Mark Hackemoeller is selected to help make cherry flavored popcorn at Not Just Popcorn in Edinburg, Indiana



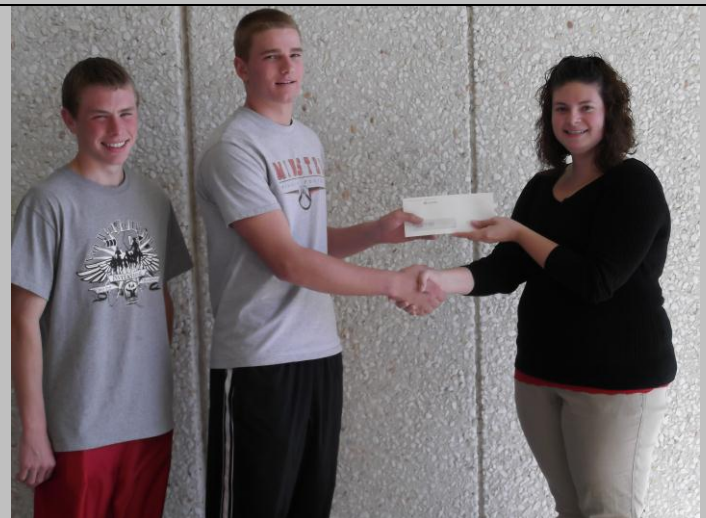
The group enjoys dinner at Texas Roadhouse



Matt Albers is congratulated by his parents Lisa and Rob Albers at the 84th National Convention



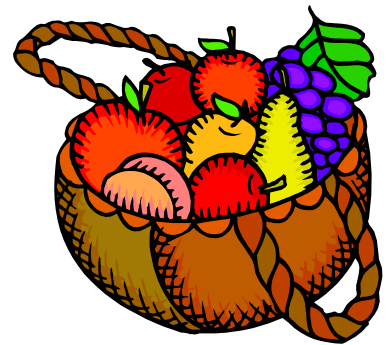
The Minster group having fun at picture time



FFA President Ryan Will and Student Advisor Eric Dahlinghaus accept a check from Genny Layman of trupointe

FFA ANNUAL FRUIT SALE

The FFA has begun the annual fruit sales for the Christmas season. The FFA would like to thank everyone for continued support of this annual sale. Available for sale by the case, ½ case or bag include Navel oranges, Tangelos, Grapefruit, Red Delicious, Gold Delicious, Fuji, and Granny Smith apples. Likewise, mixed boxes of citrus are available, along with fruit baskets. In addition, pineapples, pears, a variety of peanuts, smoked turkeys, BBQ sauce and cider are all available for purchase. FFA members will be taking orders until November 18. Fruit should arrive in Minster the second week of December.



MINSTER FFA FRESH FLORIDA FRUIT SALE 2011

It is time to order your fresh fruit from Florida. This is the 56th year the FFA has been selling citrus. Thank you for your continued support of the FFA.

The fruit will be sold in boxes (40 pounds), half boxes (20 pounds) and bags (10 pounds). The fruit will be delivered to Minster High School around December 8th.

Please make checks payable to the Minster FFA.

FRUIT

NAVEL ORANGES--\$25/box, \$15/half box, \$8/bag.

TANGELOES--\$25/box, \$15/half box, \$8/bag

PINK GRAPEFRUIT--\$25/box, \$15/half box, \$8/bag

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL (mix of all citrus) \$25/box, \$15/half box, \$8/bag

FRUIT BASKETS—includes oranges, grapefruits, tangeloes, red and golden delicious apples, and a can of honey crunch peanuts all in an attractive basket.

LARGE BASKET- \$30 SMALL BASKET-\$18

APPLES—Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Fuji Apples and Granny Smith—Bushel- \$30, half bushel \$16, ¼ bushel (bag) \$8.

PEARS- ¼ bushel (bag) \$12.00 PINEAPPLE- \$4.00

PEANUTS

CASHEWS- 16 ounce can is \$8.00

HONEY KRUNCH- 11 ounce can is \$4.

PEANUT BRITTLE BITS—12 ounce can is \$4.

BUTTER TOFFEE- 12 ounce can is \$4.

BBQ SAUCE

D.B. Yummers is a sauce made from a retired Agricultural Teacher that can only be purchased through local FFA chapters. This sauce is some of the best. A Sweet sauce and a Spicy sauce are available for \$4 a jar.

SMOKED TURKEYS

HICKORY SMOKED TURKEYS—this is a fully cooked turkey from KUCK'S TURKEY FARM in New Knoxville. This 10 or more pound turkey will come to you hickory smoked and cured in a mixture of maple sugar and ready to eat. Cost is \$28.

APPLE CIDER

New this year is fresh apple cider. A gallon is \$4 and half gallon is \$2.50.



FCCLA is off to a great start this school year. Members were in attendance at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California last summer in July. Our members did very well in their competitions. Congratulations to those who competed. They work very hard to accomplish the goal of being designated to go to the National Leadership Conference and then to compete against teams from all over the country. It is quite an accomplishment.

The start of school was a great opportunity to kick off our membership drive. We have been able to enroll 25 members this fall. Membership provides members the opportunity to attend district, state, regional, and national conferences. It also gives members the chance to become involved in some great leadership opportunities here in Minster and work on projects that directly affect the Minster community.

Once again, the Minster High School FCCLA served “Soups and Sweets” at the Minster Oktoberfest. We appreciate the tremendous support from parents, students, staff, and community members to make our “Soups and Sweets” stand a success. It is our fundraiser for the year, so the support is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Coming up November 17-20, we have 7 members that are planning to attend the FCCLA Cluster Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. We will be traveling with other area schools and taking advantage of this networking opportunity traveling with them provides. This is a great leadership trip and students will gain knowledge and skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

We also have the Blood Drive coming up on December 12. It is currently being planned and we hope to have great participation in this event. So mark your calendars and plan to join us in the Blood Drive.

SENIOR PICTURES FOR YEARBOOK

ALL SENIORS need to bring in their senior pictures for the yearbook. We need...

1. A vertical senior picture (sorry, horizontal pictures don't fit our template)
2. A second senior picture if you wish for it to be posted in the library
3. A baby picture

You can turn these pictures into **Dana Stucke** or **Johanna Winner**, or you can **email them to yearbook@minster.k12.oh.us**. We'd like to have these pictures by Christmas, so the quicker you bring them in, the better. If you don't have a “senior picture”, any portrait (so long as it's *appropriate* and it is of *you*) is fine. You *will* be getting these pictures back at the end of the year.



POST-SECONDARY OPTION PROGRAM

Through Legislative directive, students have the option to attend a college and earn credit while in high school. This is called Post-Secondary Option. Eligible students may choose this option. It will be explained to the students during the scheduling process later in the school year. If your student is interested in PSEOP or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Seaver, the high school guidance counselor, at 419-628-2324, to set up an appointment for individual counseling during the months of **January and February**. Counseling sessions must take place before March 1 and students are required to notify the school by March 30 if they plan to take advantage of this option.

CAREER DAY SCHEDULED FOR GRADES 7-12

On Wednesday, November 16, Minster Jr/Sr High School will host their annual Career Day. This year the Keynote Speaker will be Mr. Derrick Seaver, a class of 2000 Minster High School graduate. Derrick will address the student body at 9:15 in the Gym. Following the keynote address, the students will be able to listen to three different careers of their choice. This year there will be representatives from 24 different careers. Following the program, the staff and presenters will share a luncheon provided by the staff and the Minster student council. THANK YOU to all those professionals who volunteer their time to provide our students with this valuable experience!

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH STUDENT COUNCIL

With the consolidation of the middle school and high school, the two student councils have also merged to form a junior/senior high student council. The students meet regularly twice a month during their lunch/flex time. This year's officers are president, senior John Freytag; vice president, junior Jay Eilerman; secretary, senior Dana Stucke; and treasurer, sophomore Clay Brown. The remaining council members are Junior Taylor Arnold, sophomore Kathy Prenger, freshmen Lauren Roetgerman and Joe Trzsaka, 8th graders Ben Butler, Alex and Zach Eiting, and 7th graders Nick Chalk, Colleen Jutte, and Lindsay Roetgerman.

The student council had to get busy quickly at the beginning of the school year with only three weeks to prepare for homecoming. They have discussed and scheduled the junior high dances and are now working with Mrs. Seaver to participate and help carry out Career Day in the junior/senior high school. The students are also working on the t-shirt sale.

BAND RAFFLE WINNERS

The September Band Boosters raffle winners were:

\$75 - Paula McGowan
\$50 - Grace Adkins
\$25 - Dale Meyer

The October raffle winners were:

\$75 - Steve Dirksen
\$50 - Jill Prenger
\$25 - Marvin Ranly.



♪ GENERAL MUSIC NEWS! ♪

Well, this year is off and running! The 7th and 8th grade general music students are working on composing their own music. An added skill for the students this year is that they are also going a step further to add harmony to their music. They have written the rhythm, melody and harmony and then must perform their work. I am very pleased with their progress toward meeting this requirement! This is in line with meeting our district's 21st century goal. Once they have completed their composition, they will move on to playing guitars to build their repertoire of music. 5th and 6th grade students are composing as well, while also performing music on boomwhackers and singing seasonal songs. Our 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders are memorizing the song they will be performing for our Veterans on November 7. We have talked about what a Veteran is and how grateful we are for their service to our country. We are also working on learning the lyrics for The Star-Spangled Banner as well as singing seasonal songs. We've had great discussions about John Chapman (a.k.a. Johnny Appleseed) and his contributions to our society that continue to bear fruit even today. We've sung a song about Johnny Appleseed, a song about the numerous varieties of apples and my favorite, "Apple On A Stick!" Our 2nd and 3rd graders are learning about the four families of instruments in an orchestra and the 1st graders are learning about non-pitched rhythm instruments. All of the students are strengthening their music vocabulary and understanding of those terms. It's going to be a great year!

WALKING AT MINSTER LOCAL SCHOOLS

Walking is permitted on school days from October 1 to April 30 in the Jr/Sr High School. Please enter the West Door by the Boiler Room. Each walker is required to sign in and out. Hours for walking are:

AM Hours 6:30am - 7:30am

PM Hours 6:00pm - 7:00pm



JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL TRAFFIC

Reminder on the Jr/Sr High School traffic pattern: If a student is being dropped off in the morning, please enter the **east** driveway, pull to the front of the building, drop off the student, *and complete a U-turn by proceeding through the student parking lot* and exit via the **east** entrance driveway.

If you are also dropping off an elementary student, you should enter the **west** driveway, stop at the west side of the Jr/Sr High Building first, and then merge into traffic at the front of the Elementary Building to finish dropping off students. At no time should parents drop off in the front of the Jr/Sr High School Building and try to exit the **west** lot. This disrupts the elementary building traffic flow.



Walkers and bike riders must use the Hanover Street crosswalk to gain access to the school grounds. No students walking or riding bikes should use the Lincoln Street Crosswalk.

Please be mindful of the crossing guards. Their job is to stop traffic to allow the children to safely cross the street. All traffic must stop when the crossing guard enters the intersection. Please note the crossing guard is not a traffic patrol and therefore all traffic laws re-apply once the crossing guard exits the intersection.

Your help in informing relatives and friends to these traffic procedures is greatly appreciated.

8TH GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC

The 8th Graders left on Sunday, October 23 for their Washington, DC class trip. Places they learned about and visited were Gettysburg National Battlefield, The Marine Corps Memorial (Quantico, VA), the World War II Memorial, the US Capitol Building, Mount Vernon Estate, Pentagon Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Immaculate Conception Shrine, Lincoln/Korean/Vietnam Memorials, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Holocaust Museum, National Archives, American History, Natural History and Air & Space Museums, FDR Memorial, Jefferson Memorial and the Air Force Memorial. (Pictures shown below and on page 17)



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS GRADES K-6

“From the Administrator’s Desk”

Mrs. Leanne Keller: Kindergarten - Sixth Grade Principal



CURRICULUM

The Ohio Department of Education has adopted new curricular standards in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These new standards will be reflected in Ohio Achievement Assessments beginning with the 2014-15 school year. All grade level teachers are now working on curriculum mapping for the new standards, which means they are planning when, during the course of the school year, each standard will be taught and assessed. As we begin implementing the new standards, you will see an increased emphasis on 21st Century skills such as problem solving and use of technology.

PARENT RESOURCES

Mrs. Keller will again bring together an advisory committee that meets quarterly to discuss issues and concerns regarding curriculum, procedures, and building level concerns. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 PM in the Elementary teacher’s lounge. The purpose is to improve communication between home and school, and the committee will be made up of grade level representatives whose children are in grades K-6.

Please look for a form to come home with your youngest elementary student, and respond if you are interested in being a grade level representative. If you have served on this committee in the past, you are welcome to express interest to continue as grade level representative. Hopefully, we will have a mix of continuing representatives for continuity and new representatives to offer a fresh perspective. We will publish the names and phone numbers of advisory members after our committee is in place. Parents will then be able to contact grade level representatives with questions or concerns to be addressed.

Thank you for helping us keep the lines of communication open!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 26 – End of First Nine Weeks
 November 7 – Veteran’s Day Assembly
 November 7-11 – Fall Parent teacher conferences
 November 10 – Waiver Day – NO SCHOOL
 November 22 – DARE graduation
 November 23 – 25 – Thanksgiving break
 December 7 – Interims
 December 22 - January 2 – NO SCHOOL
 January 10 – Winter Benchmark Day /week
 January 11 – Minster Spelling Bee
 January 13 – End of 2nd Nine Weeks



6TH GRADE TRIP TO CAMP WILLSON

On September 22 and 23, the 6th graders visited the YMCA Camp Willson in Bellefontaine for their annual overnight field trip. While at Camp Willson the 68 students participated in activities that focused on their math, science, and social studies curriculum standards such as Water Rockets, Camp Fire Cooking, and Orienteering. The students rode horses throughout the camp, which challenged many of them on a personal level, and learned team-building skills in the Team Challenge. In addition to these activities, the students learned and sang many traditional campfire songs and enjoyed getting to know more about one another as well as themselves. It was an exciting experience they will remember for many years to come. Thank you to our parent chaperones who helped to make this trip happen.

WE ARE OFF TO A GREAT START IN 5TH GRADE!

In Social Studies, the students have just completed their personal multiple-tier timelines. We are just beginning our country research reports on an assigned country in the Western Hemisphere. The students are learning about the Geography, People & Society, Economics, Government, Communications, and Transportation of these foreign lands. We are continually discussing "How does where you live influence how you live?"



In Language Arts, the students are doing a biography project over historical people. Students have been reading biographies at their independent levels and collecting information. They will use this information to create poster projects or power point presentations. It is amazing how much they are learning about their person and the past.

We look forward to Bonnie Wurst's visit on Friday, October 28 to discuss renewable/nonrenewable items as it ties with our Science curriculum.

In math, the students are learning about fractions. This is a big part of our year. I have a new SMARTboard this year, and am finding activities such as Power Point presentations and interactives that help teach the concepts in a new and fun way. The students are so quick at learning how to use technology.

FALL HAPPENINGS IN THE FOURTH GRADE

September and October have been busy months for the Minster Fourth Graders. In Reading, we have completed two novel studies, which have helped the students develop new reading comprehension skills. They have also learned to compare their novels to movies made from their books.

Math has the fourth graders studying number sense and graphing information on bar graphs, line graphs, circle graphs, pictographs, and line plots. Any fourth grader should be able to tell you how to find the mean, median, mode, and range of a set of data.

After learning about mapping skills and the continents and oceans in September, the students are now learning about Ohio's relative location, its regions and resources. This background will help the fourth graders as we delve into our study of Ohio's history.

Science has the students looking at the plants that surround us. They have studied how plants are classified, how they reproduce, and what jobs the different parts of the plants do.

Fourth graders were able to enjoy and learn from four wonderful programs in October. On October 6th, members of the Village of Minster Street Department, put on a Power Show. The students learned about electrical safety. Students learned not to fly kites near power lines, play around the big green power boxes in the backyard, or go near any downed lines. They will encourage their parents to call before they dig to locate those buried lines.

On October 7th, the whole Elementary School celebrated Fire Prevention Week. Fourth graders get the special experience of finding out how to safely exit a building that is filled with smoke. More people die from smoke inhalation than from the actual fire in a home fire. The students entered a house trailer that was filled with artificial smoke and were taught the proper way to crawl through it to get out safely. They were all ready to go home and review their escape strategies with their families.

The NED show came to town on October 12th. Through the use of yo-yos and Frisbees, the students were taught to: never give up, encourage others, and do their best.

Finally, on October 13th the students went on a walking field trip to the Minster Historical Society Museum. The students learned how to discover the history of their families by exploring the history of the Steinemann family. They were also

introduced to the information catalogue that will help them explore their own Minster roots. Their trip concluded with a visit to the Jackson Township Hall. It was interesting to see how the township has both changed and stayed the same over the last 100 years.

3RD GRADERS ARE GETTING SMARTER BY USING THE SMART BOARD

The 3rd grade teachers and students are enjoying the new Smart Board Interactive Whiteboards in their classrooms. They believe that the Smart Board is a fun and engaging way for the students to interact with technology in the classroom. The third grade teachers have found many interactive websites to use as part of their instruction. The Smart Boards have allowed the teachers to integrate technology into their whole-group instruction. These boards are easy for the students to use so they do not simply observe the teachers using technology, but they get to experience it on their own. Here are some of the student responses to the question “What do you like best about the Smart Board?”

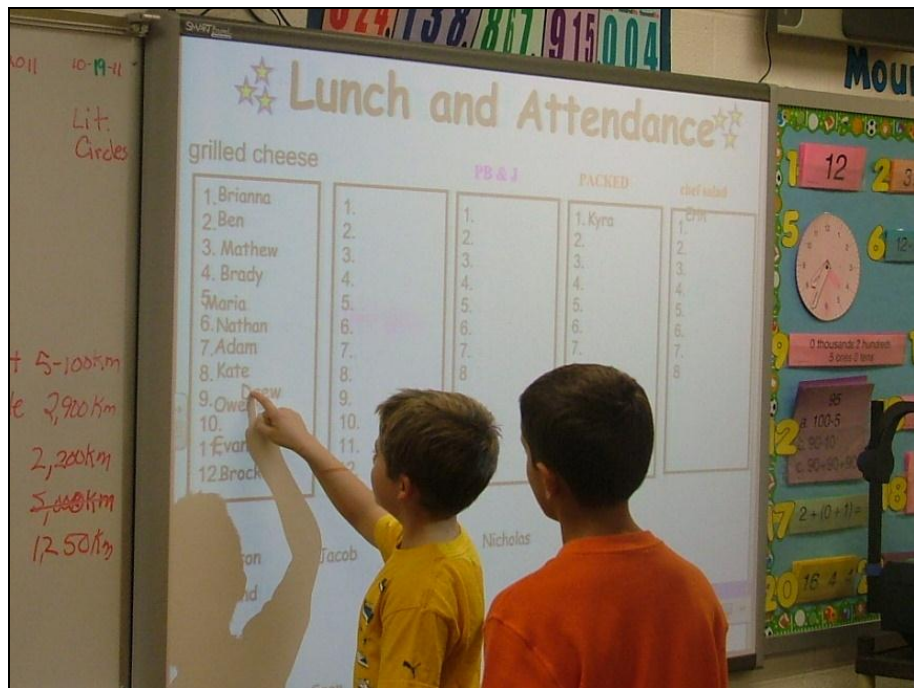
Ivy Wolf stated, “I like writing on the Smart Board and doing cool activities!”

Brianna Bowers said, “It’s fun like a toy, but it’s used for schoolwork.”

Leland Frick exclaimed, “We can go to neat websites to learn things!”

Kyra Oldiges added, “You can write stories on Microsoft Word and then show them on the Smart Board.”

Thank you to the Minster Technology Committee for funding the Smart Board Interactive Whiteboards!



2ND GRADE LEARNS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

The second-graders have been learning about the effects plants, animals, humans, and weather have on the environment. Recently, the students in Mrs. Wolf’s class read the book, *Oil Spill*. It was a story about the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off the coast of Alaska. The students learned that oil harms plants and wildlife that make the oceans and coastlines their home. To culminate the lesson, the children partnered up to clean their own “oil spill.” They learned the difficulties that scientists have to combat these nasty spills. The question was asked, “How can we help prevent oil spills?” The students learned that by using less oil there will be fewer oil tankers in the oceans, and then the chance of oil spills will not be as great. They also learned that they are able to save oil by using less electricity and gasoline. Finally, they can write letters to members of Congress to tell them we want new laws to prevent oil spills. (Below are some pictures of the second-graders cleaning up their “oil spills.”)



1ST GRADE NEWS

The first grade classes have been busy reading, writing, and improving our math skills. Along with this, we are learning more about the world by studying science and social studies. In social studies students learned about kindness. They wrote about kindness, listened to stories that showed kindness, and did role play activities to demonstrate kindness. During fire safety week, we learned about community helpers. Students now have a better understanding of who community helpers are and what they do for us. In science, students have been busy learning about the seasons. Students can now describe each season, tell why we have seasons, and can explain how seasonal changes impact the availability of resources.



ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL

With the move of the elementary, the middle school student council was broken up as the 7th and 8th grade students move to the high school building and became a part of a larger junior/senior high student council. In wake of the move a new elementary student council was formed. Sixth grader Pilar Slonkosky was elected president with 5th grader Demaris Wolf as her vice president. The secretary is Alice Schmiesing and Brooke Wolf was elected treasurer. The remaining members are 6th grader Emma Schmiesing and 5th grader Taylor Homan. The council has been busy preparing for their first event, Red Ribbon Week. They are celebrating with a coloring contest for the fourth grade. The fifth and sixth grades are making pennants. Students will also be asked to sign a pledge to be drug free. Each day students will have the opportunity to put their names in a drawing by correctly answering the question of the day.

The elementary student council is also sponsoring a concession stand to raise money for their events. Thanks to all of you who help support them by visiting the concession stand at this fall's junior high volleyball games.



November 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Boys & Girls State CC Meet Var Football Playoffs – Regional Quarter-Final
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Boys Var Basketball Scrimmage @ Arlington w/ Wayne Trace
13	14	15 Girls Var/JV Basketball Scrimmage vs Greenville/ Ottawa- Glandorf	16	17 Girls Var/JV Basketball Scrimmage vs Bath/Troy	18	19 Boys Var Basketball Scrimmage @ Ft. Jennings w/ LCC Boys JV Basketball Scrimmage vs Ft. Jennings & LCC Girls Var/JV Basketball Scrimmage @Middletown Madison w/ Wayne Girls Var Basketball Preview @ Troy
20	21 Girls JH Basketball Scrimmage @ St. Marys Boys JH Basketball Scrimmage vs Covington	22 Girls Var/JV Basketball Scrimmage @ St. Marys Boys Fr Basketball Scrimmage vs Celina	23	24	25 Boys Var/JV Basketball Scrimmage vs Covington	26 Boys Var/JV Basketball Scrimmage vs Continental & Vanlue Girls Var/JV Basketball vs Jackson Center
27	28 Girls JH Basketball Scrimmage vs Wapak Boys JH Basketball Scrimmage @ Wapak Girls FR Basketball @ St. Marys	29 Boys FR Basketball scrimmage @ Crestview	30			



December 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Girls JH Basketball vs Botkins	2 Boys Var/JV Basketball vs Lehman	3 Girls JH Basketball @ Russia Girls FR Basketball @ Ft. Recovery Boys JH Basketball vs Anna Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Lehman Boys Var/JV/FR Basketball @ Anna
4	5 Boys FR Basketball vs Marion Local	6 Boys JH Basketball vs St. Henry Girls JH Basketball @ St. Henry	7	8 Boys JH Basketball @ Marion Local Girls JH Basketball vs Marion Local Girls Var/JV Basketball vs Marion Local	9	10 Girls FR Basketball vs Coldwater Boys Var/JV/FR Basketball @ Russia
11	12 Boys JH Basketball @ Botkins Boys FR Basketball @ Delphos St. Johns	13 Girls JH Basketball @ Delphos St. Johns Boys Var/JV Basketball vs Houston	14	15 Boys FR Basketball @ Celina Boys JH Basketball vs Delphos St. Johns Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Delphos St. Johns	16 Boys Var/JV Basketball vs Delphos St. Johns	17 Boys FR Basketball vs Houston Girls JH Basketball vs Ft. Loramie Girls Var/JV/FR Basketball vs Ft. Loramie
18	19 Girls FR Basketball @ Elida Boys JH Basketball vs Houson	20 Boys FR Basketball vs Lehman	21	22	23 Boys Var/JV Basketball @ Spencerville	24
25	26	27 Boys JH Basketball @ Russia Holiday Tournament Girls JH Basketball @ Houston Girls FR Basketball vs Russia	28 Boys JH Basketball @ Russia Holiday Tournament Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Elida Holiday Classic	29 Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Elida Holiday Classic Boys FR Basketball vs Wapak	30 Boys Var/JV/FR Basketball vs Botkins	31



January 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Boys JH Basketball vs Ft. Loramie Boys FR Basketball vs New Bremen Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Kalida	3 Girls JH Basketball New Bremen Boys FR Basketball @ Cory-Rawson	4	5 Boys JH Basketball @ New Bremen Girls JH Basketball vs Sidney Holy Angels Girls Var/JV Basketball vs New Bremen	6 Boys Var/JV Basketball @ New Bremen	7 Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Celina Boys Var/JV Basketball vs Ottoville
8	9 Boys FR Basketball @ Parkway Girls FR Basketball vs Columbus Grove	10 Girls JH Basketball @ Parkway	11	12 Boys JH Basketball vs Parkway Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Parkway	13 Boys Var/JV Basketball vs Parkway	14 Boys JH Basketball @ Jackson Center Girls Var/JV/FR @ Russia Boys Var/JV/FR @ Ft. Loramie
15	16 Boys FR Basketball vs Ft. Recovery Girls FR Basketball vs Ft. Recovery	17 Girls JH Basketball vs Ft. Recovery	18	19 Boys JH Basketball @ Ft. Recovery Girls JH Basketball @ Jackson Center Girls Var/JV Basketball vs Ft. Recovery	20 Boys Var/JV Basketball @ Ft. Recovery	21 Girls Var/JV Basketball vs Ottoville
22	23 Boys FR Basketball @ Coldwater Girls FR Basketball @ Coldwater	24 Boys FR Basketball @ St. Marys Girls JH Basketball @ Coldwater	25	26 Boys JH Basketball vs Coldwater Girls JH Basketball @ Anna Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Coldwater	27 Boys Var/JV Basketball vs Coldwater	28 Girls Var/JV Basketball @ Wapakoneta Boys Var/JV Basketball @ Wapakoneta
29	30 Boys FR Basketball vs Versailles	31 Girls JH Basketball vs Versailles				

More pictures from the 8th Grade trip to Washington, DC

