

# INSIDE DISTRICT NEWS

A Publication of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District



Whitney Young students used the school's 2009 theme, *Connections*, to make displays for doors and bulletin boards throughout the building. Principal Karen Byron-Johnson invited educators from CMSD and Cleveland State to judge the students' presentations. Standing in front of Ms. Byron-Johnson's door, a **Connections Crossword**, are Assistant Principal Byron Hopkins, guest judge Cynthia Fisher and a Whitney Young student.

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## From Vision to Victory: Two New PreK-8 School Buildings Open



Excited students jostled to be the first in line for school on January 27, 2009, and it wasn't all due to the cold. Each wanted to claim first in on the first day of classes

at Artemus Ward and Robinson G. Jones PreK-8 schools, the most-recent additions to the CMSD's program to replace aging facilities with 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments.

Teachers shared the students' excitement. "It's like the scene in the movie "The Wizard of Oz," when Oz switches from black and white to color," said R.G. Jones Media Specialist Kathleen Myers. "This building is a new world with new opportunities for learning for all of us."



For instance, R.G. Jones now has a large field adjacent to it,

something the older school did not offer. "Those will be used for sports and field play, of course," said Myers. "But we're talking about sectioning off a small portion of it for a community garden this summer. That's a great learning experience for students."

## Arts Education Finds a New Audience

Mr. Tony Sias, Director of the CMSD Department of Arts Education, was the keynote speaker at the Cleveland Rotary Club's weekly luncheon on February 19. Tony was invited to speak by Jerry Smith, Development Director of Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio, who is also a Rotary Club member.

Sias' speech, "Unifying Students, Teachers and the Community for Success In and Through the Arts," served as an introduction to

arts education and programming in the District. Sias also talked about the support and importance of successful partnerships like Young Audiences.

Rotary Club members were encouraged to help CMSD celebrate "A Decade of Dreams," the 10th Anniversary of the All-City Musical program, at the cabaret style benefit gala on Saturday, May 30, in the newly renovated Hanna Theater. Mark your calendars for a dazzling evening featuring excerpts from "Little Shop of



Pictured left to right: Dr. Karen Clark-Keys, CMSD DAE; Kelly Hardy and Patricia Scott, Young Audiences; Tony Sias, Director of CMSD DAE and Jerry Smith, Young Audiences.

Horrors," "Once on This Island," "The Wiz," "West Side Story," "Carmen Jones," "Hot Mikado," "South Pacific," "Guys and Dolls" and "Dreamgirls."

1 IDN is produced by the Division of External Affairs for CMSD employees and schools.



The primary goal of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is to become a premier school district in the United States of America.

# MC<sup>2</sup>STEM High School Moves to GE's Nela Park

## First STEM high school in Ohio to be embedded on a business campus



The renovation of the MC<sup>2</sup>STEM High School facility on the GE Nela Park campus in East Cleveland is complete, and students have now moved in. "This is an enormously exciting day for everyone at the District who has worked very hard over the past year to see this historic school come to fruition," said Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders, CEO.

The CMSD-GE alliance began in August of 2008 with the plan to launch a STEM school, focused on a curriculum rich in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, embedded on a corporate campus to give students exposure to a dynamic

college-ready and real-world work environment and culture. The students are mentored by GE employees from a broad array of disciplines ranging from research, technology and engineering, to marketing, finance, global product management and human resources.

Local foundations and member companies from the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) contributed almost \$3 million for the classroom renovations on the Nela Park campus. The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation and The Sherwick Fund provided major leadership support, and the Eaton Charitable Fund, Forest City Enterprises Charitable Foundation, Key Foundation and the Parker Hannifin Foundation also provided substantial capital contributions.

The GCP served as fiscal agent for these capital contributions and as the project manager of the construction phase. The GCP engaged Marous Brothers Construction as the design/build contractor and helped involve two Cleveland-based minority business enterprises (MBEs) as subcontractors.

"This project exemplifies the kind of success that's achieved through innovative public-private partnerships focused on the important goal of creating a state-of-the-art education facility for Cleveland students," said GCP President and CEO Joe Roman.

In addition to the significant partner funding, MC<sup>2</sup>STEM is also the first school in Ohio to receive a grant from the Ohio H.B. 119 making the school and the Metropolitan Cleveland Consortium for STEM (Cleveland's Hub of regional partners) the early adopters of Battelle's Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN). The OSLN is a model organization that captures network collaboration tools from the STEM fields and facilitates school district access to these resources to help districts retool education across the state.

Sonya Pryor-Jones, the local Executive Director for the Cleveland Hub, said, "This school is a fine example of what all of our students deserve and what a community can make possible for them when we harness our thinking, energy, and resources. Today we are showing the nation what is possible for the future of education in this country."

The renovation, which began in September 2008, includes a state-of-the-art "Fab Lab" modeled on the concepts of MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms. The Fab Lab promotes activities that range from technological empowerment, to peer-to-peer project-based-technical training, local problem solving, small-scale high-tech business incubation, and grass-roots research. MC<sup>2</sup>STEM at Nela Park is one of only two Fab Labs in northern Ohio, and it was funded with a \$100,000 grant from the Thomas H. White Foundation.

Dr. Leigh McGuigan, the Executive Director of the Office of New and Innovative Schools at CMSD, said, "The school's innovative curriculum, year-round calendar and access to early-college classes in the senior year will help ensure MC<sup>2</sup>STEM will graduate students ready to meet the demands of college in order to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century work force."

# Cleveland Bar Association Wins Award for 3R's Initiative

The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association is the first recipient of the American Bar Association's Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity.

The Cleveland Bar was honored for significant contributions to education as a result of their participation in the 3R's - Rights, Responsibilities and



Realities Program in 20 CMSD high schools.

The 3Rs partnership began in 2006 and includes more than 600 attorneys, judges and law students who visit schools to prepare students for the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) and teach appreciation of the U.S. Constitution. The 3Rs volunteers also help prepare students for pre-college testing, guide them to resources for financial assistance and coach them in developing a strong resumé.

## CMSD Students Win Poster Contest



Auditor of State Mary Taylor, CPA, poses with the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the K-1 age group, submitted by a CMSD PreK-8 student from Louis Agassiz.

Congratulations to the students who represented CMSD in the *Lincoln's Bicentennial Poster Contest* sponsored by Auditor of State Mary Taylor.

- Honorary Award, Lincoln Penny Poster Students and teachers, Louis Agassiz
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Grade K-1 Poster  
First grade students, Louis Agassiz  
Paul Siuda, Teacher
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Grade 4-5 Poster  
Fourth grade students Maylyn Hones and Jovon Jones, Newton D. Baker  
Christine Linn, Teacher

There were 1,300 entries in the statewide contest. The winners will receive a plaque and an American Flag that will be flown over the State Capitol in honor of their accomplishment. The plaque and flag will be presented to the students by the Auditor of State. The students will also be honored with a City of Cleveland resolution by Councilman Martin Keane.

## Lincoln-West Forensic Students Advance to State

For the first time in the 10-year history of Forensics in the CMSD, Lincoln-West High School has two state qualifiers in Impromptu Speech, juniors Antwon Tidwell and Anthony Holmes. They also have three state qualifiers in the Student Congress Competition, senior Marila Murillo and juniors Mariam Aristy and Vanessa Aguilera. The students qualified for the state meet by winning in a state qualifying tournament at Lincoln-West High School that featured 25 schools from the Cleveland region. They will compete in the state tournament on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Mason High School.

## CMSD Employee Recognition



The Cleveland Sight Center recognized CMSD Audiovisual Specialist John Basalla for 20 years of service at an employee recognition ceremony

on January 28, 2009. In addition to his outstanding tenure and support of CMSD in External Affairs and Community Relations for more than 30 years, John is the Board Operator and radio host at CSCN (Cleveland Sight Center Network) every Sunday. He is also a reader for the Center's Radio Reading Service. Congratulations, John!

## News from Human Resources

CMSD **New Employee Orientation** takes place on the **first Thursday** of each month (except July 2009) at the **Barbara Byrd-Bennett Center**.

The schedule through October, 2009, is as follows:

March 5	April 2
May 7	June 4
July 16	August 6
September 3	October 1



### STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight Staff,  
Student & School  
Accomplishments Here!

Email  
[kathleen.shields@cmsdnet.net](mailto:kathleen.shields@cmsdnet.net)  
with details.

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, March 28

Parent Round Up: Victory Starts Early!— Registration and retention information for parents and families

#### Two locations:

**John Marshall High School, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.**  
**South High School, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**  
Look for the informational flier at your local school, Cleveland Public Library branch or recreation center!  
Families welcome!

### Tuesday, April 7

Principal for a Day (All Schools)

### Monday, April 20

Kindergarten Registration Begins

### Week of May 11

I Care Beautification Events (All Schools)

### May 22-23

Family/Community Empowerment Conference  
Cleveland Convention Center - Downtown Cleveland

### Friday, May 29

Cleveland Goes to College (All Schools)

### May 26 - June 5 "Decade of Dreams"

All-City Musical, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!  
Hanna Theatre  
Stay tuned for performance and ticket information

### Saturday, May 16

Rock Your World:  
2009 All-City Arts Festival  
9am-4pm  
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum  
The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual All-City Festival offers more than 3,000 students from across the Cleveland Metropolitan District the opportunity to demonstrate their talents to the entire Greater Cleveland community.

## Family/Community Empowerment Conference



**May 22-23, 2009**  
Cleveland Convention Center  
Downtown Cleveland

Two days packed with valuable information for families and fun for the children! Featured speaker (May 23) is Bill Cosby!

Online registration will be available beginning March 9, 2009. Early registration is open from March 9-April 30, 2009.

REGISTER EARLY to receive a FREE copy of Bill Cosby's book, "Come on People," and admittance to the luncheon on May 23.

For more information, call 216-858-1244.

## Board of Education

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Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton  
*Ex Officio Members*

## Students Choose a Day ON



Frito-Lay employees and South High School students stand in front of a mural completed on MLK Jr. Day.

More than 120 CMSD students honored the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and celebrated a renewed interest in service by choosing to make January 19, 2009 a day ON. While most of their peers were enjoying a day off school to celebrate MLK, Jr. Day, 120 CMSD middle and

high school students took a pledge to serve the Cleveland community as City Year Heroes, and then immediately acted on this dedication through an afternoon of transformational service.

More than 40 corporate and City Year alumni volunteers joined the new Heroes and 60 City Year corps members in their day of service. Most notably, Frito-Lay employees helped paint murals at Cleveland's South High School.

The students are among more than 2,500 young people across America who will pledge to serve community and country in the coming months through City Year's Young Heroes and City Heroes programs, which are led by City Year corps members and volunteers. City Year is currently active in six Cleveland schools.

## Talk to the CEO



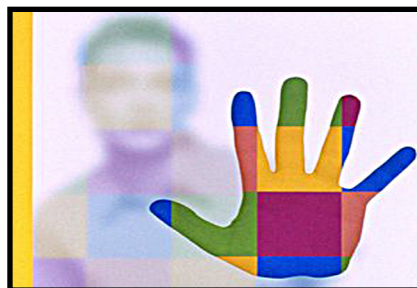
Share your thoughts and any comments concerning our school district. Your involvement is critical to the success of the

Cleveland Metropolitan School District; we are all in this together!

Visit the CEO link on the District home page, [www.cmsdnet.net](http://www.cmsdnet.net), and sign up to receive *Premier!*, the newsletter for CMSD corporate and community partners.

## Newton D. Baker Visual Arts on Display

Congratulations to Ms. Sherri Pittard, Visual Arts teacher at Newton D. Baker, and four of her students who had works selected for exhibition in the CWRU Youth Art Month Exhibit. The exhibit, sponsored by Case Western Reserve University and the Ohio Art Education Association, runs Monday, March 2 to Sunday March 22, 2009.



The gallery is located at 2215 Adelbert Rd.

The students whose works will be exhibited are:

Chloe Griffith, grade 6, mixed media  
Nikki Moeuth, grade 6, marker  
Paige Novel grade 5, pastel  
Dheja Smith, grade 7, oil pastel