

Lady Bison Rule Fall Sports

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**YOU
and
YOUR**

Schools

Fall 2007 / Winter 2008

BULLETIN OF THE BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nine Beachwood High School Students Honored by National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship Programs

Nine Beachwood High School seniors have been nationally recognized for academic excellence in the 2008 National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship Programs.

Seven students were named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: **Jonathan**

Fish, Samuel Kay, Rebecca Kendis, Benjamin Levinsky, Uri Magaram, Evan Peskin and Michaela Ross; Jacqueline Stern was named a Commended Scholar. **Holly Okpala** has been named an Outstanding Participant in the 2008 National Achieve-

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Students in the BHS Class of 2008 recognized in the National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship Programs (from left); **Benjamin Levinsky, Evan Peskin, Rebecca Kendis, Holly Okpala, Uri Magaram, Michaela Ross, Samuel Kay, Jacqueline Stern** and **Jonathan Fish**.

Photo by Joe Darwal/JWD Photo.

BHS Selected for OSU Chinese Flagship Program

Beachwood High School is one of three schools in Ohio selected to participate in The Ohio State University K-12 Chinese Flagship Program.

The Flagship Program offers support in curriculum development, teacher training and technology support for its partner schools. The program also facilitates connections to qualified schools and education facilities in China for joint programming, student exchange and immersion study trips.

The goal of the program is to provide the means by which Ohio students can become creative global citizens and operate effectively in both Chinese and American cultures.

Beachwood High School offers classes in Chinese I, II and III, taught by **Chi-Hwa Yang**, with Exploratory Chinese, Chinese A and Chinese B taught by **Shuling Tai** at the Middle School. Nearly 200 students are enrolled in these classes.

This past summer, Superintendent **Richard Markwardt, Ph.D.**, and Assistant Superintendent **Philip Wagner, Ph.D.**, toured educational facilities in China with the Office of Chinese Language Council International and The College Board. The trip introduced delegates to Chinese governmental and educational leaders and provided contacts and resources to promote the study of Chinese language in U.S. schools.



Shuling Tai teaches an introductory lesson in Mandarin Chinese to Beachwood Middle School students.

Photo by Joe Darwal/JWD Photo.

Perspective

A Message from
Dr. Scott Peters



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The past eight years have been some of the most meaningful that I have experienced in my lifetime. At the risk of sounding cliché, serving the Beachwood community as a School Board member was a superb way to give back to the school that gave so much to me (as a student), allowing me to fully express the loyalty and gratitude that I feel toward Beachwood.

As I retire from the Board, I leave with a sense of great accomplishment and a heightened sense of confidence regarding the future of our District. There are countless elements contributing to the excellence of Beachwood Schools but there are a few that serve as the foundation. For starters, the families in Beachwood value education. Our parents are deeply concerned about their children's education and in ongoing fashion, challenge the administrators, faculty and School Board to aggressively pursue new initiatives and raise the bar on our expectations of excellence. We continue to recruit and employ a uniquely talented core of teaching professionals and classified staff. Our building administrators are intelligent, enthusiastic and creative individuals focused intently on student achievement. Lastly, our Central Office administrators are deeply committed to meeting the needs of all our students and creating innovative ways to provide a strong, rich and expansive education for our children. Throughout my tenure, we have had times where morale was high in only certain buildings, but this is the first time since I have been on the Board where I have felt that *all* our Principals have their buildings functioning at high capacity, with high morale and with a genuine sense of "family."

I am looking forward to seeing the benefits that will result from the many improvements implemented by our current administration. It will be exciting for me to watch our pre-engineering program develop and prepare our students for their collegiate and post-collegiate educations in a way that has no current parallel. This program will almost certainly enhance the way our students encounter and process the relationships between mathematics and the physical sciences. It is my personal hope that this program serves as a prototype leading to the establishment of pre-med and pre-law tracks, as well as a track geared toward business and finance. Additionally, our increased commitment to Chinese and Asian studies will serve our students well as they prepare for their futures in a growing global economy.

Our dedication to the High School Advisory Program will continue to help our students develop their social awareness while they grow intellectually. This will go a long way toward their fulfillment of our mission statement "to develop intellectual entrepreneurs with a social conscience."

We have enacted a strict and comprehensive residency policy and with this heightened commitment, we will be able to ensure that our schools are educating only students who live in Beachwood.

I have found it a curious phenomenon that from time to time over the years, I have had individuals tell me that Beachwood Schools are great for the gifted students and for the students with special needs, but we may not reach the same level of excellence for the students in the "middle." Our general data does not support this claim; in fact, to the contrary, most of our students go on to college and graduate in successful fashion. In spite of this incongruity, we (the School Board) do not discount these comments when they are presented to us. That being said, we are currently exploring the possibility of creating an International Baccalaureate Program. This would be a far-reaching addition to our curriculum that will augment the education of many of the students in the so-called "middle." This program will be one that brings further success and great prestige to our schools by providing enrichment opportunities for students.

Finally, I look forward to renewed enthusiasm between the School and City officials. We have had a long and strong history of working cooperatively. I have complete confidence that through collaboration, we will develop novel and effective ways to keep Beachwood Schools at the forefront of education so that our City continues to be the finest community for residents and businesses alike.

It has been my profound honor and great pleasure to serve the residents of this great community. I will forever treasure the friendships and relationships I have established while serving on the School Board. Just as when I was a student walking the halls of Beachwood High School, I am still overcome by pride when someone asks me where I'm from and I tell them I am from BEACHWOOD! To me, it is just the best place to call home!

Treasurer's Column

The recent coverage of the inside millage issue has generated many excellent and thoughtful questions by our citizens. My staff and I welcome the opportunity to be of service to you and to make the difficult topic of school finance as easy to comprehend as possible. In light of these questions, many involving timing of revenue collections, I thought this column might be a good method to explain how the District carefully plans and controls its finances.

Every school district in the State of Ohio is required to submit a five-year forecast by Oct. 31 of each year. The forecast details anticipated spending and revenue levels for each of the five upcoming fiscal years. School districts in this state operate on a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. The forecast not only delineates the "numbers" aspect of the District's planning cycle, but is augmented by written explanation of the assumptions that are used in the forecast. The forecast documents the best information available at the time of the forecast. Of course, over time as new information becomes available, these assumptions are modified and improved, and the forecast is amended to reflect the new information.

The forecast not only is used as a planning tool, but is used by the State of Ohio to prevent school districts from entering contracts for which they have no long term ability to pay without additional funds. A school district is not able to enter into any contract that extends beyond the district's demonstrated ability to pay for that contract. School districts may only enter and certify the funds for a contract that the district has the ability to pay with *current resources*. This prevents school districts from negotiating, for

example, union contracts, lease agreements or capital improvement commitments that it is not able to pay for according to stipulated terms.

Assumptions are an integral component of the five-year forecast. They assist the reader in understanding how the forecast was created. The assumptions also delineate information of which the District is aware, but which is not included in the forecast for financial reasons. A good example of this is the Chagrin Highlands property. While our District acknowledges the existence of this property and its revenue generating potential, those revenues are not included in the forecast as the District has not yet derived any property taxes from that property. Another example is our District's tax exempt litigation of the Cleveland Clinic Family Health Center on Cedar Road. While the Tax Commissioner found in the District's favor in October 2004 by ruling that the facility is, in fact, a property subject to taxation, the Clinic immediately appealed that decision to the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals. While this issue is in its second stage of litigation, the Clinic has not paid its growing property tax liability (as is its right). So our District's financial forecast does not include those revenue dollars, but acknowledges that if we ultimately win the case, it would have a very positive effect on our



Michele Mills

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Beachwood City School District Resolution

Whereas,

Dr. Scott Peters was installed as a member of the Beachwood Board of Education in January 2000, and

Whereas,

For eight years, **Dr. Scott Peters** served the students of the Beachwood School District with dedication, compassion and vision, and

Whereas,

Under the direction of **Dr. Scott Peters** as President of the Beachwood Board of Education in 2003 and 2007, the Beachwood School District opened a new state-of-the-art Middle School, implemented a successful building reconfiguration, and became one of only three School Districts in Ohio to receive a Aa1 financial rating, and

Whereas,

Dr. Scott Peters served as a driving force in the continuation of a successful and competitive District-wide athletics program and as a role model for strength, passion and character in young Beachwood athletes, and

Whereas,

Dr. Scott Peters lived and exemplified the mission statement of the Beachwood School District and served as a mentor to his colleagues,

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved

that the Beachwood Board of Education hereby honor and commend **Dr. Scott Peters** for his eight years of outstanding leadership and wish him much success in the future.

Beth Rosenbaum, Vice President
David B. Ostro, Member

December 17, 2007
Dr. Alan Rosenthal, Member
Dr. Brian Weiss, Member

Beachwood School District Administrative Initiatives and 2007-08 Goals

To foster achievement for all students

- To promote synergistic learning cultures in every building in support of the District mission statement and established District/building objectives;
- To establish a District Curriculum Council to define, develop and articulate programs responsive to social, political, technological and economic demands of the 21st century;
- To address and eliminate the racial academic achievement gap by encouraging academic success through systemic District initiatives among our African American students.

To grow the capacity of staff to differentiate instruction within the classroom

- To continue to assess the academic achievement of our respective student subgroups as identified in our District report card through the lens of Adequate Yearly Progress and to offer learning opportunities that promote achievement for every student;
- To continue to develop and refine comprehensive service delivery efforts for students with disabilities, in particular to focus on improvement of our Inclusion Model;
- To redefine and expand the purpose and the role of the Professional Development Committee (PDC).

To use data to inform instruction on a daily basis

- To analyze data gleaned from a myriad of sources to assess students' academic strengths and needs;
- To respond to data with appropriate instructional offerings to target specific instructional needs;
- To enhance the effectiveness of our intervention methods by utilizing a District-wide Response to Intervention Model.

Beachwood School District Establishes Curriculum Council for Enhanced Teaching and Learning

As part of the Beachwood School District's 2007-08 administrative goals, the District will develop a Curriculum Council to define, develop and articulate programs responsive to social, political, technological and economic demands of the 21st century.

"A District-wide Curriculum Council will achieve several objectives in line with the goals of the Beachwood Board of Education," explained Superintendent **Richard Markwardt, Ph.D.** "Such a Curriculum Council will enable us to maintain the best possible continuous instructional programs and ensure teacher participation in both curriculum and technology development.

"The Council will also provide a climate for curriculum change and a means by which horizontal and vertical coordination and communication can be established," he continued. "It will ensure a procedure for ongoing curriculum evaluation and encourage system-wide professional development for staff."

The responsibilities of the Curriculum Council will be to manage curriculum and textbook cycle reviews, adoption of basic and supplemental textbooks, and courses of study and reviews. The Council also will monitor Ohio Content Standards and keep current with updates.

"We are tremendously excited about the opportunities for enhanced teaching and learning available through the establishment of our Curriculum Council," said Dr.

Markwardt.

"Over the next few months, we will be working closely with our subject coordinators, our Professional Development Committee and

members of our Mentoring Program to begin the formulation of our Council.

"We believe this will represent a visionary step forward for our District in terms of curriculum alignment, evaluation and change as we continue to prepare our students to compete in a global learning and working environment."

A Curriculum Council will enable us to maintain the best possible continuous instructional programs and ensure teacher participation in both curriculum and technology developments.

Nine Beachwood High School Students Honored by National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship

Continued from Page 1

ment Scholarship Program.

More than 1.4 million juniors in nearly 21,000 high schools entered the 53rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. These 16,000 scholastically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for Merit Scholarship awards.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program was established in 1964 to honor academically promising black youth throughout the nation. Holly is one of 3,000 outstanding participants of more than 140,000 students who entered the 2008 National Achievement Program.

Superintendent **Richard Markwardt, Ph.D.**, offered congratulations to the students for their national honor. "We take great pride in congratulating these extremely talented 'scholastic champions' for their academic excellence and success," he said.

INFOhio @ your library®

www.infohio.org



Photo by Joe Darwal/JVD Photo.

Senior **Greg Marmaros** (center) uses INFOhio to do research in the BHS library, assisted by **Nate Lash**.

INFOhio is the Information Network for Ohio Schools, available at <http://www.infohio.org>.

In addition to the books and materials available in the Beachwood school libraries, students also learn how to use INFOhio, Ohio's virtual library. INFOhio is a collection of commercial databases and other resources that can be accessed free by Ohio teachers, students and their parents via the Internet. Students can use INFOhio (www.infohio.org) from their home computers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or they can log on to INFOhio at any public library. State taxes provide INFOhio free to all elementary and secondary school students and their parents across the state.

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Beachwood Sponsors Educational Forum to Support Children with Cochlear Implants

The Northeast Ohio Consortium for Children with Cochlear Implants (NOCCCI) held its inaugural Educator Forum *Have a Great School Year with a Child with a Cochlear Implant in your Classroom!* at Beachwood Middle School.

NOCCCI is a groundbreaking organization composed of professionals from local implant centers, educational institutions, early intervention, private therapy practices and community response agencies with one common goal: To support children with cochlear implants through cooperation, communication and education.

The Educator's Forum, sponsored by NOCCCI, The Ohio School for the Deaf-Center for Outreach Services, and three cochlear implant manufacturers (Advanced Bionics Corporation, Cochlear Americas and MED-EL Corporation), provided a full day of continuing education for more than 140 attendees including teachers, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, intervention specialists, interpreters and administrators.

Presenters included **Dr. Mike Scott**, **Dr. Peter Weber** and **Dr. Don Goldberg** from The Cleveland Clinic Hearing Implant Program; **Dr. Jane Dunay**, Beachwood City Schools Consortium for the Hearing Impaired; **Lori Ausperk**, Mayfield



Presenters at the inaugural Educators' Forum "Have a Great School Year with a Child with a Cochlear Implant in Your Classroom" included (from left) **Lori Ausperk**, **Dr. Gail Murray**, **Dr. Jane Dunay**, **Dr. Mike Scott**, **Dr. Don Goldberg**, **Sandi Domoracki** and **Kelli Halter**.

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62 Students Thrive in Beachwood

The Beachwood Scholars Advisory Network provides support and mentoring for 62 African American students in grades four through eight.

Coordinated by fifth grade teacher **Jason Hill** at Hilltop Elementary School and at Beachwood Middle School, sixth grade teacher **Terri Nicole Singleton** and guidance counselor **Carol Grooms**, the program combines one-on-one mentoring with traditional classroom, cultural, recreational and academic components.

Assisting the program is a newly formed Scholars Parent Support Group, led by parents **Karyn Smith** and **Karen Sullins**, which assists with lesson preparation, speakers and feedback.

The Beachwood Scholars Advisory Network is an outgrowth of recommendations from the District's Differential Achievement Committee (DAC), founded in 2003 and spearheaded by BHS social studies teacher **Greg Deegan**.

Ms. Singleton explained, "As a member of the DAC, I had the opportunity to learn from the current research on race and achievement, study data collected from our own District, and most importantly, observe how other educators were responding to the differential achievement between students of color and white students. We studied the Shaker Heights MAC Scholars program, where advisors lent us their enthusiastic support and even traveled to Hilltop to share their hard-earned insights on how their program operates. We then developed and tailored our program to fit the specific needs of our students here in Beachwood."

A pilot Scholars Program for 26 fifth and sixth graders was launched last school year that included semimonthly meetings, speakers and a field trip. This year, the program has been expanded to five grade levels in two schools, with plans for further expansion to Beachwood High School in 2008-09.

"One of the things that makes our program unique is the one-on-one advisement piece," said Ms. Singleton. "In addition to meetings twice a month, each student in grades six through eight is assigned an advisor who assists him or her in setting goals and otherwise navigating the academic terrain of the school."

At these one-on-one sessions, Scholars learn SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Reasonable, Timely) goal setting; GPA and performance monitoring, and troubleshooting. The program uses the "Possible Selves" curriculum developed by **Daphne Oyserman, Ph.D.**, from the University of Michigan to identify positive adult images and make connections between specific strategies, hard work in school and racial identity. Advisors provide support and encouragement to help students work toward their goals and complete their tasks.

"As our new guidance counselor, Ms. Grooms offers a skill set and resources which have tremendously strengthened the program," said Ms. Singleton. Teachers **Jill Goodman** and **Tucker White** act as adjunct advisors for the BMS students.



Scholars Program

At Hilltop, Scholars in grades four and five meet weekly in a study circle and tutoring session with Mr. Hill, with the goal of preparing students for the academic expectations of the Middle School and helping them meet Scholars criteria.

Students sign a commitment form that they will strive to achieve specific positive attitude and effort marks, dress in business attire for meetings, and attend and participate in group activities. At the end of the school year, they are inducted as Scholars if they achieve these goals.

Lessons taught at Scholars meetings have ranged from “author vs. victim” language and behavior, study skills, and conflict resolution. An open forum is always provided for students to voice their questions and concerns.

“The Beachwood Scholars program helps participants develop strong math, reading, oratorical and analytical thinking skills and the competencies needed to be involved, resilient and successful,” said Mr. Hill.

“The program fosters a school-family-community bond,” he continued. “Kids and families who feel comfortable and successful in school and feel like the school is responsive to their needs and interests will have a much brighter future than kids who don’t have these connections.

“Our Scholars program provides an alternative environment that is in tune with African American students’ interests, motivations and needs. The program provides opportunities for the kind of personal attention from adults that young people crave, a positive peer group, and activities that hold their interest and build their self-esteem.

“My students are amazing. I am privileged to serve as their teacher.”

(Below) Hilltop Scholars (from left) **Delaney Williams, Nadeera Thornton, Tamarea Townes, Tyler Hines** and **Ajani Smith** listen intently as program coordinator **Jason Hill** talks with them about how to define and achieve their own personal goals and expectations.

(Left page) Middle School Scholars (from left) **Isaiah Watts, Hannah Richardson** (standing), **Naja Davis, Christopher Lardie** and **Christopher Jones** meet in a study session with Guidance Counselor **Carol Grooms**.

Photos by Joe Darwal/JWD Photo.



BMS Celebrates Diversity Through \$2,500 Grant

Thanks to a generous Beachwood Schools Foundation “Above and Beyond” \$2,500 grant, Beachwood Middle School is implementing a series of year-long staff training and student activities through The Diversity Center, formerly the National Center of Community and Justice.

“The Diversity Center is training the entire staff at Beachwood Middle School to facilitate Diversity lessons for all students,” explained Principal **Linda LoGalbo**. The Diversity Center is also providing year-long professional development for teachers on the topic of Cultural Competency in the Classroom.

Throughout the year, students will work in small groups (10-15 students) with opportunities for dialogue and discussion on all aspects of diversity including race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. All Middle School students also will participate in a Diversity Mural spearheaded by art teacher **Tucker White** that will become a permanent piece of art in the BMS cafeteria.

Congratulations, NHS Class of 2007



National Honor Society inductees **Larry Slaughter** (left) and **Marla Lipsyc** (right) are joined on stage by 2006-08 members (from left) **Nancie Otto**, **Elina Gidalevich**, **Shali Mahna** and NHS president **Michaela Ross**.

Leadership.
Character.
Academic excellence.
Community service.



Lindsey Smith and **Alana Oif** proudly light their NHS candles.

These are the trademarks of the National Honor Society (NHS) – and Beachwood is proud to salute the 2007 inductees:

Seniors: Jacob Ashpis, Matthew Glassman, Rebecca Kendis, Alana Oif, Evan Peskin and Lindsey Smith.

Juniors: Gilad Ashpis, Rui Dai, Nerissa Darvin, Nicholas Espinosa, Abram Feldman, Shani Fox, Arielle Gerstenhaber, Alison Lipp, Marla Lipsyc, Inbar Maayan, Hannah Novinc, A.J. Rabovsky, Linda Robertson, Samuel Rosenbaum, Abby Rubin, Julie Sanders, Jennifer Sekerak, Ling Shen, Max Sheridan, Alec Simon, Larry Slaughter, Daniel Weiss, Justin Wexler and Rebecca Wolkoff.

Seniors who were inducted into NHS in 2006: **Rebecca Berliner, Jonathan Fish, Samantha Friedman, Elina Gidalevich, Yuh Jung Han, Aaron Kahn, Samuel Kay, Nathan Lash, Benjamin Levinsky, Tamar Lisbona, Shali Mahna, Nancie Otto, Allison Ross, Michaela Ross, Sara Silverman, Jacqueline Stern, Emily Sykes, Corey Terman and Danielle Weiss.**

The Beachwood High School NHS advisors are **Marcia Alperin** and **Carole Katz**.

National Honor Society is a public recognition of student accomplishment and continued commitment to excellence. Selected by a faculty committee, Beachwood NHS members must demonstrate leadership and character and maintain a 3.7 grade point average. Members also must have at least 70 hours of volunteer community service and participate in additional service projects both within and outside the Beachwood community.



Ezra Spero, Class of 2007, received the Beachwood Schools Foundation Technology Department Scholarship. His photo was unavailable for the *You & Your Schools* Summer 2007 publication date. Ezra is a freshman at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Community PTO Awards Four Teacher Grants for Innovative Programming

Thanks to the contributions of Beachwood Community PTO, four generous grants (up to \$1,000 each) will support innovative and creative student programming in 2007-08.

Community PTO awards these grants each year to employees of Beachwood Schools who are PTO members. PTO's goal is to support professional growth, encourage excellence through creative opportunities, and provide resources for teachers and their innovative ideas.

Bryden music teacher **Darlene Haight** received a PTO grant to support the Remo Sound Drums project and a "Roots of Rhythm" workshop, where children create drums while learning a multitude of drumming activities that will enhance their math, science and cultural awareness in preparation for a "Stomp" Concert.

Beachwood High School art teacher **Allen Scott** also received a grant for a Large-Scale Collaborative Modular Mural Art Project that creates a dramatic focal point in the High School cafeteria and promotes a sense of beauty and respect for diversity.

Beachwood Middle School social studies teacher **Garth Holman** is using his PTO grant award to implement an online elective course for Middle School students. The after-school course invites students to take responsibility for their learning beyond the traditional classroom and while aligning with curriculum, will

address issues beyond what is typically discussed in the classroom setting.

Lastly, the Beachwood Schools Transportation Department received a grant to develop a safety presentation for elementary school students. A state-of-the-art Power Point presentation will include movie clips of Beachwood students on school buses. The students then will create posters for a poster contest, with prizes for the best posters on school bus safety.

Many thanks to Community PTO for its commitment to enhanced educational programming and ongoing support of our schools.



BMS social studies teacher **Garth Holman** works with (seated) **Arielle Cohen**, **Jeff Zuckerman** and (standing) **Jake Lowenkamp** on their "Day in the Life" elective projects. The students are researching local, national and international news events that took place during their lifetimes and creating videos that will be certain to become family heirlooms! The course was funded by a PTO grant.

Instant Access to Your Children's Grades

Beachwood Middle and High School parents now have real-time access to their children's grades in every class.



The eSIS Parent Assist Module (PAM) allows parents to log in using a password to see their children's cumulative grades for the present quarter, grades received on each individual assignment, final quarter grades after each marking period is complete, and daily attendance. If a teacher posts assignments in advance of grading them, parents also can view what lies ahead and the respective due dates.

Parents of Hilltop students have access to daily attendance and class schedules. Parents of Bryden students have access to daily attendance.

Parents who have multiple children enrolled in the Beachwood Schools can use their usernames and passwords to access information about each of their children.

High school and middle school students also have access to their grades through a similar program called SAM (Student Assist Module).

To access the site, go to <https://esis.lgca.org/passist/jsp/starter.jsp>. Parents needing assistance or password reminders should contact Beachwood High School Technology Integration Specialist **Chris Jordanek** at cjj@bw.beachwood.k12.oh.us.

Beachwood High School hosted a regional meeting of the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation in October, with professionals from the fields of business and education observing a demonstration of one of the District's interactive white boards. Interactive white boards combine with a computer and projector to allow an educator to produce a dynamic and engaging presentation. The regional meeting showcased the state-of-the-art technology used in Beachwood classrooms District-wide. Foreground: **Dr. Dale Cook**, Associate Dean of Technology in the Kent State University Grade School of Education. Front row, from left: **Kathy Kooyman**, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Grants Manager; **James Connell, Ph.D.**, former superintendent of the Berea School District; **Dr. Joanne Schwartz**, retired Dean of the Kent State University Graduate School of Education. Back row: Beachwood Schools Assistant Superintendent **Philip Wagner, Ph.D.**; **Doreen Osmun**, Principal of Ellsworth Hill Elementary School in Hudson.





Lady Bison Rule Fall Season

Soccer, Tennis

Earn Conference Championships

Lady Bison fall teams were the ones to beat this year, with both the women's soccer and tennis teams winning Chagrin Valley Conference championships.

The Lady Bison tennis team swept the conference by winning every championship match. The team was undefeated in CVC matches with its sole season loss to Laurel in a state team qualifier match.

"The season was highlighted by sending seniors **Arala Cohen** and **Tamar Lisbona** and junior **Robyn Silver** through the sectional tournament and onto districts," said **Coach Gregg Goldberg**.

"We wish our graduating seniors

good luck in the future as they will be missed and helped to develop a great program. The Lady Bison will continue our winning tradition next season by returning a host of experienced underclass letter earners as well as developing players from the undefeated JV team."

"The Lady Bison soccer season is definitely one to remember, but one must realize that we have been 'in the making' for the past few years," noted coach **Stacey Davis**. "I attribute our success this year to the hard work and determination throughout the year, both in season and out of season

and on and off the field."

The team finished the regular season with a record of 11 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties, led by senior captain **Alana Oif**. Two major highlights this season were beating Hawken 1-0 at home and clinching the CVC at home against Cuyahoga Heights.

"All season long, we have worked hard to overcome our weaknesses," said Coach Davis. "We have turned those weaknesses into strengths, which has helped us grow and succeed."



Varsity tennis team, from left: (seated) **Marla Lipsyc**, **Jessica Roth**, **Tamar Lisbona**, **Robyn Silver**, (standing) **Calli Babin**, **Arala Cohen**, **Raleigh Cohen**, **Alexandra Stern**.



Lady Bison tennis captain **Arala Cohen** helped her team to a CVC championship with her 1st singles win.



Girls' soccer won its first-ever conference championship this year. Above, captain **Alana Oif** boots the ball away from the goal at one of 11 season victories.



Varsity soccer team, from left: (seated, front row) **Jennie Anne Simson**, **Allie Debeljak**, **Ali Lipp**, **Lindsey Smith**, **Arielle Gerstenhaber**; (middle row) **Kali Morgenstern**, **Sara Silverman**, **Ashley Debeljak**, **Lindsay Silver**, **Callan Camin**, **Jacqueline Stern**; (top row) **Coach Stacey Davis**, **Melissa Toth**, **Danielle Sperling**, **Jessie Greenberg**, **Talya Sterling**, **Alana Oif**, **Coach Saree Leimsieder**. Not pictured: **Emi Hitomi**.

Photos by Scott Gloger/Myron Photographic Elegance.



Fall Sports 2007

REGIONAL AND STATE AWARDS

CROSS COUNTRY

(Men's)

CVC

2nd Team

Ashley Watkins-Clark

Honorable Mention

Danny Weiss

Evan Weiss

CROSS COUNTRY

(Women's)

CVC

2nd Team

Emily Sykes

Honorable Mention

Melissa Friedman

Samantha Friedman

Regional Qualifier

Rebecca Wolkoff

Heisman Award State Finalist

Emily Sykes

FOOTBALL

CVC

1st Team

Brandon Cranfield

2nd Team

Alex Binder

Evan Luxenburg

Joshua Musch

Corey Terman

Steven Yarbrough

Honorable Mention

Matthew Bloom

John Edwards

DeWayne Phoenix

Matthew Sabroff

Griffen Weisberg

GOLF

CVC

2nd Team

Garrett Mayers

Matthew Mintz

Honorable Mention

Jeremy Chesler

Andrew Davis

SOCCER

(Men's)

CVC

2nd Team

Akash Appachi

Larry Slaughter

Honorable Mention

Nicky Espinosa

AJ Rabovsky

All-Greater Cleveland Div. III

1st Team

Larry Slaughter

3rd Team

Akash Appachi

Honorable Mention

Zach Binstock

Nicky Espinosa

Andrew Goldblum

AJ Rabovsky

All-Ohio Scholar Athlete

Akash Appachi

Jonathan Fish

Ben Levinsky

All-Ohio Team Academic Award

All-American Team

Academic Award

100th victory for Coach Brian Greene!

SOCCER

(Women's)

CVC

Team Champion

1st Team

Callan Camin

Jessie Greenberg

Danielle Sperling

2nd Team

Ashley Debeljak

Emi Hitomi

Alana Oif

Honorable Mention

Lindsey Smith

Jacqueline Stern

Coach of the Year

Stacey Davis

All-Greater Cleveland Div. II

2nd Team

Callan Camin

3rd Team

Jessie Greenberg

Honorable Mention

Ashley Debeljak

Emi Hitomi

Alana Oif

Danielle Sperling

All-Star Players

Lindsey Smith

Alana Oif

Coach of the Year

Stacey Davis

All-Ohio Team Academic Award

All-American Team Academic Award

TENNIS

CVC

Team Champion

1st Team

1st Singles

Arala Cohen

2nd Singles

Alexandra Stern

3rd Singles

Calli Babin

1st Doubles

Tamar Lisbona

Robyn Silver

2nd Doubles

Marla Lipsyc

Jessica Roth

Coach of the Year

Gregg Goldberg

VOLLEYBALL

CVC

2nd Team

Kristen Ross

Honorable Mention

Taylor Hines

Hiroko Matsuyama

CVC Scholar-Athlete Awards

Akash Appachi

Matthew Bloom

Arala Cohen

Melissa Friedman

Samantha Friedman

Lindsey Kerzner

Nate Lash

Tamar Lisbona

Evan Luxenburg

Alana Oif

Kristen Ross

Jessica Roth

Sara Silverman

Jonathan Slavin

Lindsey Smith

Jacqueline Stern

Emily Sykes

Corey Terman

Brittany Weiss



Fall Sports 2007

BEACHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

83 percent of Bison fall athletes maintained a 3.0 grade point average for first quarter grades.

Alix Aboussouan	Samantha Golovan	Garrett Mayers	Jennie Anne Simson
Anthony Amaddio	Jessie Greenberg	Greg Melzak	Larry Slaughter
Peter Amaddio	Xin Hao	Ari Meskin	Jonathan Slavin
Akash Appachi	Sevy Harris	Benjamin Milgrom	Alex Small
Monica Arkin	Justin Hernandez	Ashley Milliner	Melanie Small
Lee Axelband	Cole Hersch	Alexa Millstein	Jared Smith
Ilya Aylyarov	Taylor Hines	Matthew Mintz	Lindsey Smith
Matthew Banchek	Emi Hitomi	Kali Morgenstern	Talya Sterling
Samuel Bernstein	Morgan Hochheiser	Megan Murray	Jacqueline Stern
Lindsay Bialosky	Kaulin Hooper	Joshua Musch	Emily Sykes
Matthew Bloom	Ethan Isaacson	Joyce Catherine Neville	Daniel Tamarkin
Michael Bohm	Matthew Jacobs	Alana Oif	Allison Teitelbaum
Noelle Britt	Phillip Jakubowitz	Nancie Otto	Shauna Tepper
Alexander Bruening	Erin Katz	AJ Rabovsky	Corey Terman
Callan Camin	Michael Katz	Sabrina Rose	Melissa Toth
Amnon Carmi	Jordan Kaye	Sam Rosenbaum	Joseph Tramer
Bradley Charna	Alexandra Kelley	Kristen Ross	Bailey Treister
Brittany Crosby	Lindsey Kerzner	Alex Roth	Natali Vannoy
Andrew Darvin	Nathan Kohn-Magnus	Melissa Rubenstein	Ilana Warner
Andrew Davis	Jordan Krantz	Anna Ryazanskiy	Logan Weisberg
Allison Debeljak	Joe Krauss	Matthew Sabroff	Brittany Weiss
Ashley Debeljak	Katie Landis	Hillary Sadler	Collin Weiss
Brian Diamond	Brandon Larkey	Philip Schiavone	Danny Weiss
Nicky Espinosa	Nate Lash	Suzanne Schiavone	Evan Weiss
Sarah Fine	Sung Hoon Lee	Paige Schiller	Jacob Weiss
Jonathan Fish	Sarah Levine	Zach Schulman	Alex Wertheim
Shani Fox	Stephen Levine	Amanda Seidel	Amelia Wester
Melissa Friedman	Benjamin Levinsky	Sophie Shapiro	Evan Winston
Samantha Friedman	Ali Lipp	Ling Shen	Rebecca Wolkoff
Arielle Gerstenhaber	Mollie Marcus	David Silver	William Wolkoff
Elina Gidalevich	Jeremy Margolis	Lindsay Silver	Mengzhi Wu
Eden Golan	Hiroko Matsuyama	Rachel Silver	Xia Bai Wu
Andrew Goldblum	Masami Matsuyama	Eric Silverman	
Zachary Goldner	Steven Matta	Sara Silverman	

Beachwood Preschool Director Jane Mayers Builds on 20+ Years Teaching Experience

Beachwood Early Childhood Center teacher **Jane Mayers** is the new director of the Beachwood Early Childhood Center preschool.

Mrs. Mayers (fondly called "Miss Jane" by her young students) has taught 3-year-olds and pre-kindergartners at the Beachwood Early Childhood Center (Fairmount School) for 11 years. She co-taught in an integrated special education classroom for eight years and spent four years on the Beachwood Schools' Professional Development Committee. She also served on the Fairmount School Leadership Committee, developing programming that resulted in the school's Excellence Award from the Ohio Association of

Elementary School Administrators.

Recipient of the Beachwood School District's Crystal Apple Award for excellence in education, Mrs. Mayers also serves as director of the Beachwood

Early Childhood Center's summer day camp for young children.

Prior to her joining Beachwood Schools, she taught 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds at Fairmount Temple, where she also designed and implemented the aftercare program.

She holds a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and lives in Beachwood with her husband, Eric, and children Garrett (BHS senior) and Ellie (BHS freshman).



Miss Jane's students (front, from left) **Maren Klineberg, Nao Nozaki, Brady Safenovitz, Nathan Burke,** and (back, from left) **Cassidy Crosby, Maya Neyman, Kayla Corlew** and **Brynn Kemelthar** finish up an art project.

Treasurer's Column

Continued from Page 3

financial position and the timing of any future levies. Currently, the Clinic is in arrears \$3.5 million for this property, inclusive of interest and penalties. The District does not expect the present litigation to be decided until the first or second quarter of 2009 at the earliest.

One of the challenges in preparing a five-year forecast is that the schools operate on a fiscal year, but property taxes are collected on a calendar year. Property taxes are the main source of revenue for the schools. So while the fiscal year for the schools begins July 1, the tax year does not commence until the following January. While the five-year forecast is actually adopted in October of each year, planning actually begins the prior January with the District's submission of its tax budget.

The District is very strategic and comprehensive in its approach to anticipating trends, financial challenges, levy timing,

enrollment and expenditure patterns in developing our financial forecasts and budgets. Our plan is forward-thinking and involves input from the Board and Administration. While the five-year forecast only delineates anticipated spending and revenue levels for the General Fund (which pays the day-to-day operating costs of the District), our schools also plan and study capital needs over a five-year period.

Capital needs are "bricks and mortar" type of expenditures. As with many of you who own homes, the schools also have ongoing costs of maintaining and improving our property. We anticipate boiler repairs, roof repairs, new equipment needs, vehicle purchases (buses, maintenance vans used in snow removal, etc.), landscaping and field improvements, as well as major overhauls or building additions, to name just a few. The five-year capital plan

is updated at least on an annual basis. It becomes a tool to schedule projects and to earmark sources of funds for these projects. It also provides the District and staff a blueprint on the timing of projects and when major projects are anticipated to be completed.

The District is constantly changing and revising our financial plans as new and sometimes unanticipated events occur (for instance, if we have to add an additional teacher(s) due to increased enrollment, if a boiler shuts down and needs emergency repairs, or if trends in delivering quality education necessitate building reconfigurations). It is a process that involves a great deal of time, expertise and input from many stakeholders. Our District is strategic and forward-thinking in its planning, with the center of focus always on our students and their needs.

Staff News

BMS psychologist **Stefanie Currington** passed the rigorous examination to obtain her Ohio Board of Psychology licensure.

Greg Deegan's book *Surviving the Drought: Cleveland Sports Fans Since 1964* has been published and is available through major booksellers. The book celebrates the perseverance of Cleveland sports fans through the last 43 years – “a long odyssey through the desert in search of a championship.” Mr. Deegan, a social studies teacher at Beachwood High School, is auto-graphing copies of his book at local bookstores throughout the holiday season.

Retired BHS English teacher **Loraine Hammack** presented at the 2007 National Council of Teachers of English convention in New York City. Her presentation, “East Asia Meets the West,” suggested how integrating East Asian literature can promote understanding of and empathy toward individuals and themes that are common to all cultures. Mrs. Hammack also chaired a session on China in the Curriculum.

Communications Director **Cindy Sykes** spoke by invitation at an Ohio School Boards Association “Levy University” workshop in Columbus attended by more than 100 superintendents,

treasurers and Board members from throughout the state. Mrs. Sykes was interviewed by Ohio News Network and featured on a news segment about school levies that was broadcast across Ohio.

An article regarding language arts and technology, written by fourth grade teacher **Karen Tollafield** and published in the *Ohio Journal of English Language Arts*, was required reading for a Capital University 300-level Language Arts class. Mrs. Tollafield has presented twice

at Ohio Council of Teacher of English conferences.

Assistant superintendent **Philip Wagner, Ph.D.**, presented at the Education Law Association's annual conference in San Diego. His presentation, “An Evaluation of the Legal Literacy of Educators and the Implications for Teacher Preparation Programs,” highlighted the research findings of the legal literacy of educators and the implications for teacher preparation programs.



Beachwood Schools extends a warm welcome to our new staff — front, from left: **Vickie Challenger**, BMS math teacher; **Judith Friedman**, BMS Hebrew teacher; **Michele Toomey**, BHS special education teacher; **Shannon Klouda**, Hilltop educational assistant; **Heather Allen**, BHS special education assistant; back: **Diana Romanoff**, Hilltop special education teacher; **Casey Matthews**, BHS English teacher; **Dana Schultz**, fourth grade teacher, **Kortez Wilson**, BHS Culinary Arts teacher; **Jennifer Flaherty**, Bryden librarian/media specialist; **Curt Staver**, BHS special education assistant; **Eileen Levine-Soeder**, BMS Spanish teacher; **Natalie Copeland**, BHS educational interpreter; **Windella Williford**, Transportation Department supervisor; **Dugan Bentley**, BMS physical education teacher. A warm welcome also to **Linda Allen**, fourth grade teacher; **Susan Atves**, bus driver; **Gayle Barodofsky**, Fairmount special education assistant; **Orly Benezra**, special educational assistant; **Terri Cala**, Hilltop instructional tutor; **Michelle Clark**, BHS educational interpreter; **Kelly Debeljak**, BHS nurse; **Kelley DeFranco**, Human Resources Department administrative assistant; **Sara Epstein**, Bryden special education assistant; **David Flores**, BHS cleaner; **Carol Grooms**, BMS guidance counselor; **Jeff Hedrick**, Bryden head custodian; **Tawana Hills**, bus driver; **Portia Hunter**, BHS English teacher; **Victoria Lefelhocz**, Fairmount/BMS library aide; **Rachel Leffel**, BHS educational interpreter; **Elaine Montemarano**, BMS administrative assistant; **Shuling Tai**, BMS Chinese teacher; **Valerie Tripodo**, preschool aide; and **Bev Zaharewicz**, BHS Guidance Department administrative assistant.

Educational Forum

Continued from Page 5

City Schools; **Kelli Halter**, Regional Infant Hearing Program, Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center; **Sandi Domoracki**, Regional Infant Hearing Program, Family Child Learning Center; **Heather Rose**, private practice, cochlear implant habilitation; **Dr. Denise Wray**, University of Akron, School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; and **Dr. Gail Murray**, University

Hospitals Case Medical Center, Audiology Services and Cochlear Implant Program.

Topics discussed ranged from cochlear implant surgery and function to federal and state laws regarding school responsibilities, and attendees' evaluations proved the Forum to be enriching and useful.

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Continued from Page 5

INFOhio can help your child achieve in school by providing:

- Reliable and up-to-date resources on many subjects for all age groups
- Large, organized collections of maps, pictures, charts
- Homework help
- Test-taking strategies
- Full-text magazine and newspaper articles
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If you need help in answering your child's questions, or assisting with homework and projects, go to INFOhio (www.infohio.org)

To use INFOhio at home you'll need to enter a username and password – check with your child's school librarian for assistance.

Encourage your child to look for information and answers on INFOhio at www.infohio.org from home or @ your library.

Learning is Fun at Bryden!



From top: (left)
Philip Piro,
Audrey Li,
Logan Tyson,
Joshua Friedman,
Ms. Karen Overstreet,
Nisha Kalmadi,
with (bottom, from left)
Connor Umpleby,
Max Steiger,
Sophie Karl,
Nathan Kanegkasikorn,
Grace Warner,
Madison McShepard.

Photos by Joe Darwal/JWD Photo.



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Beachwood Middle School Named One of Two "Ohio Schools to Watch"

Beachwood Middle School is one of two middle schools in Ohio honored by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Education, as a "School to Watch."

Beachwood Middle School was selected by state leaders for its academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. Criteria for the award also included strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement.

Dr. John Harrison, president of the National Forum, congratulated the "Schools to Watch" for "being places that do great things for all of their students. These schools demonstrate that

high-performing middle grades schools focus on academic growth and achievement. They are also places that recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensuring that every child has access to a rigorous, high-quality education."

Selection is based on a written application that required schools to show how they meet or exceed 37 criteria developed by the Forum. Beachwood Middle School then was visited by a state team that observed classrooms, examined data, and interviewed administrators, teachers, parents and students.

The National Forum is an alliance of educators and researchers dedicated to improving education in the middle grades, supported by the National Association for Elementary School Principals, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the

National Middle School Association and the national Staff Development Council. Beachwood Middle School will be honored as a National School to Watch at a June ceremony in Washington D.C. and will also be recognized at an awards ceremony in Columbus in February.

"We are extremely pleased to accept this national honor on behalf of the students, staff and parents of Beachwood Middle School," said **Richard Markwardt, Ph.D.**, superintendent.

"Just three years ago, Beachwood Middle School was named the #1 school in the country for excellence in technology by the Blue Ribbon Schools Foundation," he added. "This latest national award continues the tradition of distinctive performance at Beachwood Middle School. It is a true testimonial to the school-wide commitment to strength, growth and spirit that you feel the moment you walk through the doors."